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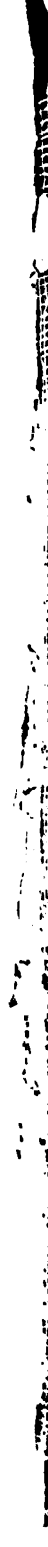
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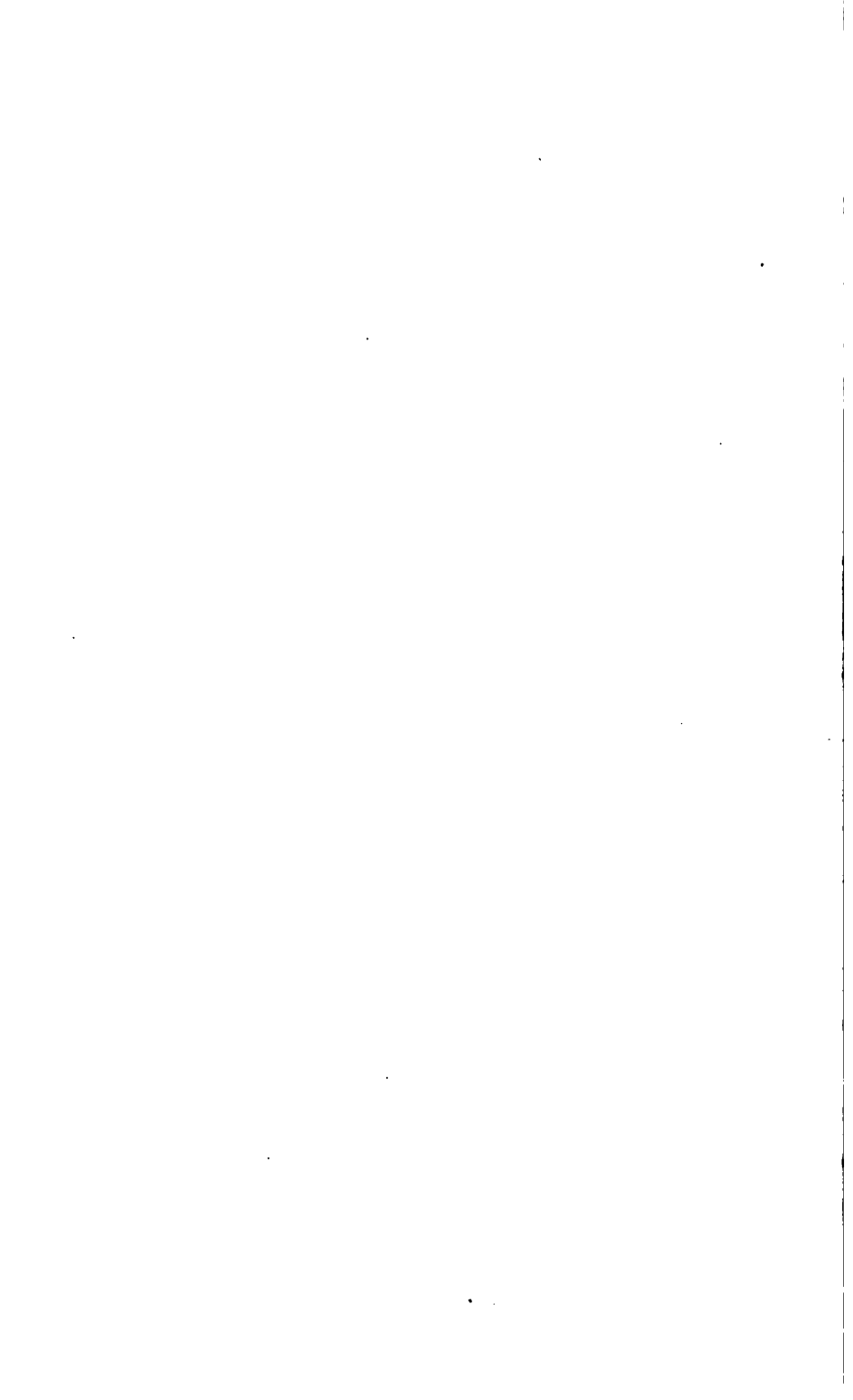
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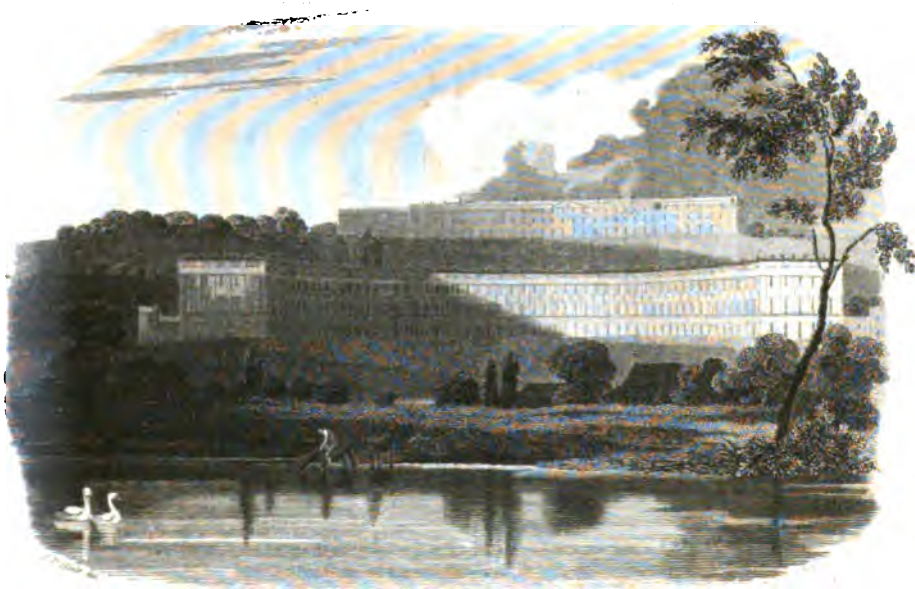


Engraved from a drawing by J. Smith

LICHFIELD CATHEDRAL,
Staffordshire.

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THE
Beauties
of
ENGLAND AND WALES ;
OR
DELINEATIONS
TOPOGRAPHICAL, HISTORICAL
and
DESCRIPTIVE.
Vol. XIII. Part I.



Crescent, Bath.



THE
BEAUTIES
England and Wales:
OR,
ORIGINAL DELINEATIONS,
TOPOGRAPHICAL, HISTORICAL, AND DESCRIPTIVE,
OF
EACH COUNTY.

EMBELLISHED WITH ENGRAVINGS.

BY THE
REV. J. NIGHTINGALE.

VOL. XIII.—PART II.



Incorrect pedigrees, futile etymologies, verbose disquisitions, crowds of epitaphs, lists of landholders, and such farrago, thrown together without method, unanimated by reflections, and delivered in the most uncouth and horrid style, make the bulk of our county histories. Gough.

LONDON:

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WRINGTON

is a market-town, pleasantly situated to the south-west of the Mendip. The streets are irregularly built, and most of the houses thatched. It was anciently privileged with a market, which is still held on Tuesday, but is exceedingly trifling. The market-place contains the ruins of a cross. In this town there is a free-school for six boys and as many girls.

The church is a stately building, one hundred and twenty feet long, and fifty-two wide. It consists of a nave, chancel, side aisles, and a porch, embattled at the top, and ornamented with a variety of handsome pinnacles. The tower, which rises at the west end, is one of the finest in the kingdom. It is one hundred and forty feet high to the top of the battlements, which are adorned with four turrets, one at each corner, and sixteen elegant Gothic pinnacles, fifteen feet in height.

This church contains several neat monuments, both ancient and modern. One of them is remarkable for its elegance. It is built of white and Sienna marble, and was erected in honour of Henry Waterland, LL. D. Prebendary of Bristol, who died in the year 1779. The inscription is too long to be quoted.

A humble cottage in this parish had the distinguished honour of giving birth to Mr. JOHN LOCKE, one of the first philosophic characters the annals of science can boast of. His father was a gentleman of some property, and originally bred to the law. At the breaking out of the civil war, having declared for the parliament, he received a captain's commission in their service. Our author was born in 1632. At the proper age he became a pupil in Westminster school; from hence he removed to Christ Church, Oxford, where he prosecuted his studies with great assiduity. In 1655 he took his degrees in arts, and three years afterwards began to apply himself to medicine. He went through the necessary preliminaries with eclat, and obtained

tained a diploma as physician. He now entered upon his profession, and succeeded in acquiring considerable practice at Oxford. His constitution, however, was too delicate to bear the fatigues incident to a medical life. Hence he gladly embraced the opportunity of going abroad, in the capacity of secretary to Sir William Swan, who was at that time appointed ambassador to several of the states of Germany.

The object of this mission being finished in one year, Mr. Locke again returned to his practice at Oxford, where an accident soon after brought him acquainted with Lord Ashley, afterwards Earl of Shaftesbury. His lordship being afflicted with a cancerous affection in the breast, for which he was ordered to drink the mineral waters at Acton, wrote to Dr. Thomas, a physician at Oxford, to procure a quantity of them against his arrival there. Just at this period Dr. Thomas happened to be called away on other business, and left his friend Mr. Locke to undertake the commission. He did so, but having employed a person who failed him, he was constrained to wait upon Lord Ashley to make his excuses for the disappointment. His lordship received his apology with great politeness, and being much pleased with his conversation, detained him to supper, and engaged him to dinner next day. About a year after Locke was invited to take up his residence in Lord Ashley's house. That nobleman advised him to turn his thoughts to the study of political subjects; and this advice being quite congenial to Mr. Locke's temper, he did not hesitate to follow it. In a short time he made such rapid progress in his new pursuit, as to be thought worthy of being consulted by his patron on matters of the highest importance. His lordship also brought him acquainted with many of the first political and literary characters of that age.

In 1669 he was solicited by the Earl and Countess of Northumberland to accompany them to France, whither they were going for the sake of the earl's health. With this request he complied; but that nobleman having died at Turin the year following

following, he returned with the countess to England, and again became an inmate in the family of Lord Ashley, then chancellor of the exchequer.

At this period his lordship and some other noblemen obtained a grant of Carolina. Locke was employed to draw up the fundamental constitutions of that province. Shortly after he began to form the plan of his "Essay on the Human Understanding;" but was prevented making much progress in it, by his employment in the service of his patron, who about this time was created Earl of Shaftesbury, and elevated to the dignity of lord chancellor. His lordship named Mr. Locke secretary to the presentations; but the great seal being soon again taken from himself, our author lost his appointment also. Lord Shaftesbury, however, still continuing at the board of trade, Mr. Locke remained secretary to a commission from that board, which had been added to his other situation, and was worth five hundred pounds per annum. He enjoyed it somewhat more than a year, when the commission was dissolved.

On the sixth of February, in the year 1674, he took his bachelor's degree in physic, at Oxford; and the summer following went to Montpelier, being apprehensive of a consumption. Here he employed himself in arranging the plan of his Essay on the Human Understanding. In the mean time, however, he did not neglect his profession. About this period he became acquainted with Mr. Herbert, afterwards Earl of Pembroke, to whom he communicated the design of his Essay.

Mr. Locke continued abroad till the year 1699, when he was sent for by Lord Shaftesbury, then appointed president of Sir William Temple's council. His lordship, however, having lost his situation in a few months, had no opportunity of serving our author. Still, however, he continued firmly attached to his interest, and even followed him to Holland, when he fled there in 1682, to avoid a prosecution for high treason; which induced many to suspect he was a confederate. This suspicion being strengthened by his keeping company with a person of the

the

the name of Ferguson, who had written several papers against the government, he was deprived of his student's place at Christ Church, in 1684, by the special order of the king, as visitor of the college. In May, 1685, he was even demanded by the English envoy at the Hague. This rendered it expedient for him to conceal himself for nearly twelve months, which time he employed chiefly in composing his Essay. Toward the end of the following year, however, the suspicion subsided, and he again made his appearance in public. About this period he formed a weekly assembly at Amsterdam, with Limbörch, Le Clerc, and other celebrated characters, for the discussion of questions in science. In 1687 he completed his great work, the Essay, and having made an abridgement of it, Le Clerc translated it into French, and published it in his "Bibliothèque Universelle," in 1688. This abridgement was well received, and created such a general desire to see the work itself, that Mr. Locke put it to press immediately upon his arrival in England, in 1689.

Our author, being now restored to favour, could easily have obtained a very considerable post; but he contented himself with that of commissioner of appeals, worth only two hundred pounds a year, procured him by Lord Mordaunt, afterwards Earl of Monmouth, and next of Peterborough. He had also the offer of going abroad as envoy to the emperor, or atty of the states of Germany. But he waved this distinction, on account of the infirm state of his health, and accepted the invitation of Sir Francis and Lady Masham, to occupy an apartment in their country seat, at Oates. Here he spent the greater part of his after life, indefatigably pursuing his researches, into different branches of philosophical pursuit.

The publication of his treatise on the bad state of the silver coin, procured him a seat at the board of trade and plantations, in 1695, which of course engaged him in the immediate business of the state. Shortly after he turned his attention to the affairs of the church, and published a treatise to promote the scheme

scheme of King William, "for a comprehension with the dissenters." This drew him into a controversy, which was hardly finished when he found himself involved in another with the Bishop of Llandaff, and others, relative to some opinions in his Essay. In 1700 he resigned his seat at the board of trade; the asthma, to which he was constitutionally liable, having increased so much, as to render him unable to bear the air of London.

After this period he spent the whole of his time at Oates; where he died on the twenty-eighth day of October, in the year 1704, at the age of seventy-three. His remains were interred in the church of that parish, and a monument erected to his memory, with an inscription upon it, written by himself. Queen Caroline, consort to George the Second, placed his bust along with those of Bacon, Newton, and Clarke, in her pavilion at Richmond, erected in honour of philosophy. Mrs. Montagu also gave an urn to his memory, which is seated in the place where he was born. It is inscribed thus:—

"To John Locke,
born in this village,
this memorial is erected,
by Mrs. Montagu,
and presented to
Hannah More."

A monument has likewise lately been proposed for him in St. Paul's Cathedral, but we lament to say that the subscriptions are not yet adequate to the purpose. We trust, however, the friends of science and political liberty will not allow their country to be stigmatized as ungrateful to one of its noblest scholars and greatest ornaments.

The principal works of Mr. Locke are too generally known to require any comment, even would our limits admit of it. For the names of such of them as are less familiar, we refer to the General Biographical Dictionary. They were all published, in three volumes, folio, in the year 1714.*

VOL. XIII.

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Clevedon

* Gen. Biog. Dict. Life of Locke, appended to his Conduct of the Understanding.

Clevedon is a village in the hundred of Portbury. It is so called from being situated at the extremity of a *clive*, or cliff, and in a *dun*, or valley, which declines from hence towards the Bristol Channel.

The rocks in the vicinity of this village rise, with great boldness and grandeur, to an immense height. The remains of several lead mines are still to be seen in them, and that kind of ore is frequently found in digging near the surface. One of these rocks, which commands a vast prospect, particularly down the Channel, was formerly the site of a tower, called *Wake's Tower*, from the family of Wake, lords of the manor, who erected it as a place of observation. This tower has long been demolished; and in its place, about the year 1738, a summer-house was built by Mr. Elton, which has also gone to ruins. The ride over the hill, from Leigh Down, is justly considered as one of the finest in the county.*

The mansion-house of Clevedon is situated to the south of the village, and on the south slope of the hill. It is a noble old building, erected at different periods. The scenery around it is wildly "scared with craggy rocks, intermixed with fine herbage."

The church stands near the edge of a rugged rock, overhanging the shore, at the west end of the village. Its elevation alone defends it from the fury of the sea, which, in stormy weather, beats here with great violence. When the wind blows strong from the west, and is favoured by the tide, it is uncommonly tremendous. The building resembles a cross, and is surmounted, in the centre, by a handsome tower, in the Gothic style. It is dedicated to the honour of St. Andrew. The living is vicarial, and the advowson belongs to the Bishop of Bristol.

The south cross aisle, or chapel, is the burial place of the lords of the manor. On a stone here lies the effigy of a man in armour, with a sword by his side, and a bull under his feet. The arms and inscription are totally defaced.

Walton

* Collinson, III. 168.

Walton in Gordano is a parish, situated to the north-east of Clevedon. The scenery of it is pleasingly picturesque. A very fine amphitheatre is formed by the hills of Clevedon, and another ridge which stretches towards Portishead Point, and there dips into the Bristol Channel. The slopes of the hills are covered on each side with beautiful seats, villages, and pasture grounds.

The village of Walton is placed on the south declivity of the amphitheatre, looking towards a moor, which extends in a long, narrow, wedge-like shape, nearly three miles from west to east. Anciently, however, it lay on the north-west declivity of the south ridge of hills, and close upon the sea.

Walton Castle, the ancient seat of the lords of the manor, stands on the summit of the same ridge, and commands a very fine and extensive prospect. The figure of this structure is octangular. It is embattled round, and adorned at each angle with a small turret. The keep, or citadel, which stands in the centre of the area, is also octangular, and has a small turret of similar shape on the south-east side. The roof and floor are now fallen in, and a great part of the walls are going fast to decay. The entrance to this castle is through an embattled gateway leading by another portal to the citadel.

The ruins of the old parish church lie to the westward of the castle, and near the spot on which the village formerly stood. It was dedicated to the honour of St. Paul, and consisted of a single aisle, with a tower at the west end. A very fine mitred arch formed the entrance to the nave, in the wall of which, towards the east end, there are two receptacles for images. The south wall contains a benetoire for holy water. In the burying-ground attached to this church are the remains of an ancient cross. This is still the place of sepulture for the poor of the parish.

The present church stands in the village, on the south side

of the hill. It is a plain unadorned fabric, of modern construction, with a small turret at one end.

The manor of Walton was bestowed, by the Conqueror, on his kinsman, Ralph de Mortimer, one of the principal commanders in his expedition to England. The descendants of this nobleman, afterwards earls of March, continued to possess the royalty of it till the reign of Henry the Sixth, when an heir female carried it into the house of York. At this time the manor was held by Sir Thomas de Chedder, whose daughter and heiress married Sir John Newton. Sir Edward Seymour possessed it in the time of Philip and Mary. This gentleman sold it to Sir John Thymne, from whom it passed to Christopher Ken, of Ken, Esq. whose daughter and co-heiress conveyed it, by marriage, to the family of Poulett.

The parish of *Portbury*, which gives its name to the hundred, lies to the north of the ridge of mountain extending from Walton to Portishead. It was a place of some note in the time of the Romans, and long the principal town in this part of the country. These assertions are proved by the number of coins of the lower empire, and massive foundations of old buildings, which have been discovered here. Some have maintained, that it is the station *Nidus*, mentioned in the *Iter* of Antoninus, as the most important place in Britain, next to *Bomium*. The accuracy of this opinion, however, is at least doubtful. It has also been supposed that the towns of Portbury and Portishead were formerly joined, and constituted, together, a large and opulent sea-port town. For this belief there is some stronger reason than for the other. It is supported by tradition; and the appellation itself gives it countenance, being clearly derived from two Saxon words, the first signifying a harbour, and the latter a fortified town.

This parish had a cell of Augustine monks, belonging to the priory of Bromere, in Hampshire. The religious seldom exceeded six in number. The shell of this building is still standing, "venerably clothed with ivy."

The

The church is a large building, dedicated to St. Mary. The chancel and south aisles contain several niches, intended for images. The tower at the west end is lofty and well built; but neither remarkable for elegance of structure nor embellishments. Many of the Berkeley family were buried in this church. No monuments, however, remain.

Portishead, supposed to have been anciently the harbour to Portbury, lies a short way to the north-west of the latter.

The parish to which this town gives its name, is for the most part level, but defended towards the north-east by a high ridge of mountains, which rises from the skirts of the Channel. The town itself is situated to the south of these hills, which are finely covered with wood. During the seventeenth century a fort was erected here, on a spot called Portishead Point, to protect the navigation to Bristol; but it is now demolished.

Portishead is a rectory, in the deanery of Redcliff and Bedminster. The church is a substantial building, adorned with a very handsome tower, surmounted by elegant pinnacles. The churchyard contains a very neat cross; but there are no monuments, either here or in the church, which require to be noticed.

Easton in Gordano is situated to the east of the two last mentioned parishes. The village stands on a delightful eminence, which commands an agreeable prospect towards King's Road harbour and Bristol.

The hamlet of *Crokerne Pill* lies within this parish, at the mouth of the river Avon. It is chiefly inhabited by pilots, for the safety of vessels trading to Bristol. Even at this place the river is only a few yards in breadth, but very deep. Nothing more surprises the passenger than the entrance from the Channel. It is not perceived till immediately upon it, and then appears so small and narrow, that it is impossible to satisfy the mind, till actually a short way up the river, that any vessel can enter it.

The church of this parish is no ways remarkable for its architecture.

teecture. The tower at the west end contains a clock and six bells, on one of which is this poetry:—

“Come, when I call, to serve God all.”

There are several monuments here, some of which are handsome, but in other respects not deserving of description.

Tickenham lies in the hundred of Portbury, at the bottom of a chain of mountains, running from east to west. Several centuries ago all this parish was a deep impassable morass; indeed it is now only rendered safe for horses, by a causeway raised across it.

The church is dedicated to St. Quiricus and Julietta. The building is Gothic, and has a tower at the west end. The font here is a square stone cistern, supported by five pillars. One larger than the rest stands in the centre, and the other four occupy the angles. Three full-sized effigies, two of them men in armour, and one a female, lie on a stone tablet in the south aisle. The inscriptions are entirely defaced, so that the persons they were intended to commemorate are unknown.

Near the church formerly stood the mansion of *Tickenham Court*. It is now a ruin, but some of the walls are still standing. These being adorned with noble windows, of the Gothic order, and clothed with ivy, present to the eye an interesting and venerable object.

Barrow Court, another ancient mansion, now entirely demolished, was situated under the hills, on the road leading to Clevedon. The summit of the same ridge, which overlooks the village, is distinguished by an ancient Roman entrenchment, called *Cadbury Castle*, resembling that of a similar name, which we have already described,* but of much less extent and consequence. This camp is of an oval form, and surrounded by a large double rampart, composed of loose lime-stone, the produce of the spot on which it is placed.

Nemnet lies in the hundred of Hareclive and Bedminster. The grounds of this parish are in general high, but intersected
by

* Vide Ante, 477.

by deep woody glens. The church is a small building of modern construction.

What renders this parish chiefly worthy of notice, is a *tumulus*, or barrow, situated in a field, called *Fairy Field*, at a short distance eastward from the church. This ancient sepulchre is undoubtedly one of the noblest in England. It extends sixty yards in length, twenty in breadth, and fifteen in height. The surface of it is covered with ash trees, briars, and thick shrubs. When opened it was found to be a mass of stones, "supported on each side, lengthwise, by a wall of thin flakes." The space between contained two rows of cells, or cavities, formed by "very large stones, set edgewise." These cells are entered from the south, and are divided from each other by vast stones, placed on their edges, and covered with others still larger, by way of architrave. In one lay seven skulls; and in another a great quantity of human bones and horses' teeth; but no coins or other reliques were found in any of them, which could lead to a discovery of the persons who own this receptacle of mortality. It certainly, however, indicates the neighbourhood to have witnessed some great and fatal battle, which has escaped the page of history, as well as oral tradition.

Chew Magna, so called from being larger than any of the other places named *Chew*, is an extensive and populous parish in the hundred of Chew. It is sometimes called Bishop's Chew, from being the property of the Bishop of Wells. The town of Chew was anciently a borough, and considerable for its manufacture of cloth. These advantages, however, are now no more.

In this parish are the remains of an ancient Roman encampment, called Bow Ditch. The form of this entrenchment is circular, with a triple row of ramparts. The spot on which it is placed commands a fine prospect towards the Bristol Channel.

The church is a massive building, with a tower at the west

end, surmounted by an open ballustrade, and having a turret at one corner.

Sir John de Loe, and his lady, lie in effigy, on a large tomb, in the north aisle. The figure of the former is of gigantic size, and in armour, with his limbs crossed, to denote his having been at Jerusalem. That of the lady is much defaced. From the inscription and date beneath she seems to have died in 1443.

The south aisle contains the effigy of Sir John Hautvil, in armour, cut out of one solid piece of Irish oak. He reclines on his left side, resting on his hip and left elbow, the left hand supporting his head. His right arm crosses his breast, the hand touching the edge of an oblong shield, which lies between his left elbow and hip. The left leg is raised, and the foot placed against a lion, in the act of biting his spur. The right leg forms a right angle at the knee. Over the armour is a loose red coat, bound round the waist with a girdle, fastened by a gilt buckle.

This gentleman was remarkable for prodigious strength, as the Irish oak is probably intended to denote. Vulgar tradition informs us, that Edward the First having requested Sir John to shew him a specimen of his abilities, the knight undertook to convey three of the stoutest men in England to the top of Norton Tower, situated in a neighbouring parish. Accordingly, taking one under each arm, and a third in his teeth, he proceeded on his task. The two in his arms, making some resistance, were squeezed to death, but the other was carried up without sustaining the smallest injury.

Stanton Drew, is a large parish, situated in the south-west angle of the hundred of Keynsham. It is washed by the river Chew, which passes near the church, in its course to Pensford. The lands are noted for the excellence of their pasture. In the church, which is dedicated to St. Mary, and adorned with a tower, there are several neat monuments, mostly of modern date, which do not seem to require a particular description.

This

This parish is remarkable for a curious monument of antiquity, which stands in an enclosure, to the north-east of the church. It consists of the remains of four clusters of huge massive stones, forming two circles, an oblong and an ellipsis. The first of the circles is three hundred feet in diameter, composed of fourteen large stones, some of which lie flat on the ground. The second is only eighty feet in diameter, and is formed of eight stones. The oblong, consisting of five stones, stands between the circles, and at the south-east extremity is the ellipsis, composed of seven stones, one of which stands centrally, and out of the line of arrangement. The largest stones are those which form the second, or inner circle. One of them is no less than twenty-two feet in circumference, and nine in height, weighing, upon calculation, upwards of fifteen tons.

Extensive as this part is, it would appear to have been only the centre of the whole building. It had many avenues to it, and a huge stone near the road to Chew, commonly called *Hautvill's Coit*, from a tradition that it was thrown here by the knight we have mentioned above, seems to have served as part of a portal to one of them. At a little distance south-west of the church, on a small eminence, there are other three large stones, placed in a triangular form, which are supposed to have been outworks to the circles. The whole of this relique goes, among the vulgar, by the general name of *the wedding*, from a prevailing opinion, that a woman going to be married was, with all her attendants, converted into stones.*

The real origin of this immense work is uncertain. Some antiquaries, and among them Dr. Stukeley, contend that it was a temple, erected by the British Druids.† Wood even supposes it to represent the Pythagorean planetary system, adopted by that people, who pretended not only to have a perfect idea of the form and magnitude of the universe, but also of the courses

* Collinson, II. 432.

† Itin. Curios. II. 169.

Wiltshire, who lived towards the end of the fifth century. This lady, we are informed by Capgrave,* was, in her youth, much famed for her beauty, and sought in marriage by many distinguished personages, all of whom, however, she rejected; and devoted her life to virginity. Hence she acquired the name of *Keyn Wryyf*, or Keyna the Virgin. Travelling from her native home to seek some solitary spot, where she might indulge her religious contemplations undisturbed, she passed beyond the Severn, and requested permission from the chief of this part of the country to reside at Keynsham, then a desert wood. The prince said he would readily comply with her request; but added, that it was impossible for any human being to live in that neighbourhood, as it swarmed with serpents of the most venomous species. Keyna, who had great confidence in the efficacy of her prayers, answered the prince, that she would soon rid the country of that poisonous brood. Accordingly the place was granted to her, "and, by her prayers, all the snakes and vipers were converted into stones. And to this day (continues Capgrave's translator) the stones in that country resemble the windings of serpents, through all the fields and villages, as if they had been so formed by the hand of the engraver."†

This is one of the instances in which natural phenomena are referred by superstitious monks and impostors to miraculous causes. The stones alluded to, are examples of that curious, but well-known *lusus naturæ*, the *Cornua Ammonis*, or snake-stone, which abounds in the quarries of this parish.

The town of Keynsham is privileged with a market; and consists chiefly of one street, about a mile in length. The river Chew waters the east end of it, and falls into the Avon at the county bridge, which is built of stone, and extends over fifteen arches. This place was formerly considerable for its cloth manufacture. Now, however, this branch of trade is entirely dropt; though many of the poor are still employed in spinning for

* A writer of the fourteenth century.

† Cressy's Church History. Collinson, III. 401.

for the Bradford and Shepton clothiers. The herb woad is raised here in large quantities, for the purposes of dying. *Percepier*, or *parsley piert*, so famous for its effects in urinary complaints, has long been very abundant in this parish.

Keynsham had anciently an abbey of Black Canons. It was founded by William, Earl of Gloucester, at the request of his son Robert, and dedicated to the honour of God, the blessed Mary, and St. Peter, and St. Paul. This nobleman bestowed upon the abbey the whole property of the manor and hundred. Many other donations were afterwards added, so that the revenues of it were very considerable. Not a vestige of this ancient fabric now remains. History, however, informs us it was both extensive and magnificent. Many effigies of monks, and other monumental stones, have been discovered under its foundation.

The church, which was appropriated to the abbey, is a large and handsome building, adorned with a lofty tower at the west end; it is placed near the centre of the town, and is dedicated to St. John Baptist.

The north side of the chancel is ornamented with a mural monument of stone, supported by a tomb, about five feet high, on which lies the effigy of Henry Bridges, Esq. in armour. His feet are supported by a dragon couchant, with its head turned back, and mouth open, in the act of siezing his leg.

On the opposite wall is another mural monument, of the most superb architecture, in honour of Sir Thomas Bridges. It is divided into four compartments. A hollow arched canopy, four feet wide, and nine high, contains the effigy of the knight, attired in a loose gown, with a long flowing robe, lined with white. He wears a square toed white shoe, with a very high red heel. His long curly hair flows on his shoulders; his left hand carries the ribbon of the order, on his breast are the insignia, and at his side the remains of a sword. Within the hollow of the cave is a beautiful group of clouds, from which projects the figure of an angel, crowned with gold, and blowing
a trumpet,

a trumpet, from the bottom of which issues a label, with this inscription:—

“Awake thou that sleepest; arise from the dead, and Christ shall give thee life!”

On the right and left of this canopy, are the figures of two angels, in fine white drapery, and having golden crowns on their heads. They both stand with their faces towards the effigy of Sir Thomas, each of them holding in one hand a crown of gold, and pointing to the label with the other. Above their heads are fine rich cornices and pediments, supported by two projecting and detached twisted columns, and terminated by two stone statues. The inscription beneath is partly in prose, and partly in verse, and so long, that we decline quoting it, seeing it contains nothing either curious or generally interesting.

Besides these there are several other monuments in this church,; but we shall only notice one of plain stone, in the passage of the middle aisle, and that merely for the epitaph, the style of which is somewhat peculiar. It runs thus:—

“Here lyeth the body of Anna, the daughter of Mr. Thomas and Mrs. Mary Leman, who departed April 23, 1633, ætates suæ.”

“Grim death the eater meate doth give,
By that which did me kill, I live;
The grave devours me, but I shall
Live to see its funeral;
After some ages more are spent,
The gluttonous grave shall keep a Lent.”

The south wall of the chancel has a remarkably large benchoire, with two circular basons, for the reception of holy water.

Long Ashton, is a parish on the bank of the river Avon, which separates it from Bristol, as well as from the county of Gloucester. It is situated in a rich and woody vale, defended on the south, by the lofty ridge of Dundry, and on the north, by a range of bleak, but picturesque hills, which extend themselves to the west. The lands of this parish, are for the most part, appropriated to pasturage. A small part of them are
laid

laid out as gardens, where vegetables, and various kinds of fruit, particularly strawberries, are raised for the Bristol market. In these gardens many Roman coins have been dug up, a fact which shows that the Romans were acquainted with this territory, though the name by which they distinguished it, has escaped the records of history.

The village of Long Ashton lies on the south-east slope of an eminence, called Ashton Hill. The houses here are in general well built, and almost every cottage in it has proper accommodations for the entertainment of company, as this place is much resorted to in the summer season. An excellent gravel road passes through this village, extending to the utmost boundaries of the parish, which at different parts forms a terrace, from which the traveller has a most delightful view of the whole vale of Ashton, part of Bristol, Clifton, and a number of villages, scattered on the opposite bank of the Avon.

At the eastern point of the hill, which commands the finest prospect, the rocks are nearly perpendicular, and extremely craggy. Hence, many caverns have been hollowed out by the hand of nature, which being finely shaded with a variety of shrubs, exhibit a scene of much wild and romantic beauty. On the verge of these cliffs, are the remains of two Roman encampments, one of which, called *Burwalls*, is triangular, and consists of three ramparts, stretching along the slope of the hill. The inner rampart is eighteen feet high, and composed of materials so strongly cemented, that it is scarcely possible to separate them.

The entrenchment, which is denominated *Stokeleigh*, is divided from the other by a narrow dell. It is of an oval shape, and comprizes only two ramparts, the inmost of which is extremely thick and strong. Both these camps seem rather to have been designed for the purpose of observation than of defence, "and to have served as a speculum over the pass between the Belgæ on this, and the Dobuni on the other side of the river."

On

On the south-east slope of Ashton Down is the mansion-house of *Ashton Court*. It is a noble old edifice, originally founded by the family of the Lyons, but afterwards much altered and improved by the celebrated Inigo Jones. Indeed the entire front of it was erected by him, and does considerable honour to his taste, if we consider that he intended to have modernized the whole structure, and made it one uniform and regular pile of building. The length of this front is a hundred and forty-three feet. One of the rooms in it is a very fine apartment, ninety feet long, and twenty broad, hung round with a variety of elegant portraits. The back part of the house still retains its original form, and exhibits marks of great antiquity. The court which leads to the park, westward, is called the *Castle Court*, from its being embattled, and having an old gateway, similar to those adopted in baronial mansions. The entrance to the second court is under a low door-way, between two lofty turrets, one of which contains a bell and clock. All the offices are ancient. The venerable appearance of the house on this side, contrasted with the elegance of the front, and the beauty of the surrounding lawn, exhibits, as a whole, an object rather uncommon and picturesque.

Besides this manor-house, there were several others in Long Ashton, but none of them can now be traced, except that of Ashton Philips, called the *Lower Court*, the ruins of which stand in a valley to the south-west of the village. It seems to have been a structure of considerable extent and grandeur; but only a small portion of the dwelling apartments, and the chapel remain. One of the former is a very large wainscotted room, having the edges of the pannels gilt. The latter is still in good preservation, and contains an altar of stone, in its pristine state, with a niche, or receptacle for holy water.

The parish church is a very ancient and handsome building, founded by one of the Lyons, and dedicated to All Saints. Its divisions are a nave, chancel, north and south aisles, and two chapels, one on each side. The nave is separated from the
aisles

aisles by two rows of neat clustered pillars, supporting pointed arches. A beautiful Gothic screen, of flower and fret work, painted and gilt, executed in the most admirable manner, serves to divide both nave and aisles from the chancel. On the glass of the windows are several painted figures and coats of arms; among the former, are the portraictures of Edward the Fourth, and his Queen, Elizabeth Woodville. The tower, at the west end, upon which the arms of Lyons are cut in stone, contains six bells; one of them is probably coeval with the foundation of the church, and bears the following inscription:—"Sancit Johannis Baptistæ ora pro nobis."

The benefice of this church is vicarial, and the advowson appendant to the manor. The Rev. John Collinson, to whose History and Antiquities of this county we have so often had the pleasure to refer, has been many years vicar of this parish.

In this church are several handsome monuments, both of ancient and modern date: that in honour of Sir Richard Choke and his lady, is particularly magnificent; it is built of stone, richly decorated with Gothic tracery and imagery, in a style greatly superior to any similar work of the age in which it was erected. The effigies of Sir Richard and his lady lie under an elegant canopy, being interiorly adorned with a glory, supported by two angels, in well-drawn attitudes. The knight is dressed in his judge's robes, and the female according to the costume of her time. At the top of the monument are two scrolls, and at each corner are the family arms.

BRISTOL.

On several accounts, the city of Bristol has claims of a peculiar and superior kind on the attention of the historian and the topographer. Though not probably the most ancient, it is certainly one of the most important cities in the empire, and was long reckoned second only to the metropolis, in a commercial

and political point of view. The singularity of its situation, on the borders of two extensive counties, in fact, standing in both, yet, strictly, belonging to neither, seated on seven hills, and, in other respects, resembling ancient Rome, surrounded with some of the most delightful scenery that the country can boast, being the great emporium of trade for the western counties, and the share it has had in all the great events of our history, are circumstances that have often excited the interest, and roused the curiosity of the tourist, and the annalist. We regret exceedingly that our limits allow us but a scanty account of this important city.

It has been said by some, that this city was founded by Brennus, the supposed first king of the Britons, about three hundred and eighty years before the christian era; but this opinion seems to have been propagated without sufficient authority.* This notion has, however, derived some support from the appearance of two ancient statues, said to be those of Brennus, and his brother Belinus, on the south side of St. John's gate. Gildas, a British monk, of the sixth century, whose epistle on the depravity of the Britons was written in the year 560, mentions *Brito*, in his list of fortified and eminent British cities, in the year 430, when the Romans abandoned our island.† Nennius, in the catalogue annexed to his History of Britain, which comes down to the eighth century, also enumerates *Caer Brito*, the ancient British name for this place, among the twenty-eight famous cities of Gildas; and the venerable Bede says, that "Britain was famous, in ancient times, for twenty-eight most noble cities, furnished with gates, and strong bolts, walls, and towers."‡ These testimonies, however, have reference only to the ancient city of the Britons, the site of which is now occupied by works of a much later origin, as but little mention is made in

history

* The apocryphal Geoffrey of Monmouth, most likely, first broached this conjecture; which was subsequently repeated and confirmed by William of Worcester.

† Anderson's History of Commerce, Vol. I. pp. 19, 36.

‡ Eccles. History, Ed. 1722.

history of the present city, earlier than A. D. 1063, when, according to Florence of Worcester, Harold set sail from Bristow, with a fleet, to reduce Wales.* No particulars are related of it during the Danish invasion. But before we proceed in the history of Bristol, it will be proper to notice its ancient names, and the etymology of its present one. The Britons called this place *Caer Oder Nant Badon*, *q. d.* the city Oder in the vale of Badon, or "the other city in the vale of Badon."† Leland inclines to change *Nant Badon* into *Nant Avon*, "the valley of the river Avon," whose name, he observes, may have been given to the city situate on it ‡. This writer also supposes that *Odre* is the name of the river; but Baxter§ says, that *Caer Oder* signifies a *frontier* city, and that Venta, which Ptolomy places among the Belgæ, was Bristol: *Brightstow* being the Saxon word to denote a *white*, or a *fair* place, for the Britons before they were driven into Wales, and for the West Saxons afterwards.¶ Or this word, as Mr. Gough observes, will signify *Britonum locus*, synonymous, as Mr. Gale imagined, with *Britodunum*. Mr. Barret ¶ agrees with the learned antiquary, John Horseley,** that the *Antona*, or *Anfona*, fortified by the renowned Roman general Ostorius, was the *Avona*, which is written by Ravennas, *Abona*,†† the name by which the military works on Clifton, Leigh, and Durdham Downs, were designated, evidently from their contiguity with the river Avon. Camden, however, is of opinion that this alludes to the river in Warwickshire of that name. It is, nevertheless, more than probable, that the *Abona* of Antoninus, is the Avon of Somersetshire, as he describes a Roman station of this name, situate between *Aquæ Solis*, the present Bath,‡‡ and the river Severn, obviously the Castle of Clifton; which great forti-

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fication

* Camden Brit.

† Note, by Gough, in Cam. Brit. I. 86.

‡ Note on Cygnea Cantio V. Belgarum.

§ Gloss. Rom. Antiq. p. 187.

¶ Gough, Add. Cam. I. 122.

¶ History of Bristol.

** Britannia Romana, p. 36.

†† Gough, *ut sup.*

‡‡ Vide Ante, p. 361.

fication is noticed by William of Worcester,* at one time parish-priest of St. James's, Bristol.

After the name of *Caer Oder* had been dropped, this place came to be called *Bristow*, partly from another of its ancient names, already noticed, *Caer Brito*, the British City. But this name had not an immediate derivation from the ancient British. The Saxons, in their rage for changing the name of every place in their possession, gave this a termination from their own language, by adding the word *stow*, a place, to the ancient name, *Brito*; hence it was long called *Brytstow*, from whence it was latinized into *Bristolia*, or *Bristolium*, and, lastly, derived its present name, BRISTOL. There is another etymology of this name mentioned by Mr. Gough, and to which he strongly inclines; but, we think, without sufficient authority. His words are, "Aylward Meau, or Smew, founder of Cranborn Abbey, or his grandson, Brictric, lord of Bristol, before the conquest,† was lord of Bristol, in the tenth century;‡ and from him, it is more than probable, that the name of *Bricstow* was derived: for in some Latin rhymes, taken by Dugdale || from the Chronicle of Tewkesbury, Brictanus, which is the same with Brictric, says of himself, *Bristow constructi*, i. e. "I built a church at Bristow, as well as at Tewkesbury."§ Several objections to this etymology occur; but we will pass on to the history and description of the place, as it now stands.

In the year 1051, Harold and Leofwin, two of the sons of Earl Godwin, after a fruitless attempt, in conjunction with their father, and their brothers Gurth, Swey, and Tosti, at rebellion against Edward the Confessor, fled to Ireland, taking ship at the port of Brytstowe, in a vessel prepared for them, by their brother Sweyn, to whom protection had been given by the Earl of Flanders.¶ It has already been observed, that in 1063 Harold set sail from this place, with his fleet, to invade the principality;

* Mem. Brist. in It. Nasmitb. . 180.

† Leland, VII. 71.

‡ Ibid, VI. 82. VII. 71. || Mon. Ang. I. p. 161. § Add. Cam. Vol. I. 123.

¶ Simeon Dunelmensis, p. 185. Brompton, Chron. p. 493.

cipality; and as this is the first important historical mention of it, Camden conjectured that it was built about the declension of the Saxon government.*

During the reigns of Harold and the Conqueror, there were mints established at this place; and in 1696, William the Third struck half-crowns here. It is thus mentioned in Domesday book: "Bristow, with Barton, an adjoining farm, paid to the king one hundred and ten silver marks; and the burgesses returned, that Bishop G.† had thirty-three marks, and one of gold."‡

Robert of Glastonbury, thus ranks the city of Bristol among the principal towns of the island:—

The furste lords and maisters that yn yis londe wer,
And the chyffe townes furste they lete arer,
London and Everwyk,§ Lincolne, and Leycestre,
Cocheestre and Canterbyre, Bristoe, and Worcestre.

About the year 1066, Harding, a progenitor of the ancient family of Berkeley, and a descendant from the kings of Denmark,§ was denominated mayor and governor of Bristol. He was a rich and powerful merchant, and, according to Leland, removed the Society of Calendars from the Christ Church to

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the

* This opinion has given great offence to the native historians of Bristol. Mr. Barret, who, as Mr. Gough has made it to appear, differs only a century from the learned antiquary in his date of the origin of Bristol, has started numerous objections; and in the years 1748 and 1749, were published part of a work, entitled *Bristolia* or *Memoirs of the City of Bristol*, in which it was proposed to shew, that Mr. Camden's opinion of the late rise of Bristol is "not only contradictory to general tradition, and the opinion of all the antiquaries before him, but also inconsistent with his own authorities, as well as other positive and authentic testimonies; by Andrew Hooke, Esq. native thereof." See Gough's *British Topography*, Vol. II. p. 209.

† Giso, Bishop of Bath and Wells.—Gough. Some, however, have supposed that this alludes to Geoffrey of Coutance, at that time custom-keeper, or proprietor, of the castle.

‡ Domesday book, in Gloucestershire, p. 163. *Bertine apud Bristowe*,
§ York.

§ Collins's *Peerage*, Vol. IV. p. 1.

the Church of All-Hallows. This fraternity existed in Bristol before the conquest.

In the first year of the reign of William Rufus, a formal and powerful conspiracy was formed to dethrone the king, at the head of which were Odo, Bishop of Bayeux, and Robert, Earl of Montaigne, maternal brothers of the Conqueror, who, communicating their design to Eustace, Count of Bologne, Robert, Earl of Shrewsbury and Arundel, Robert de Belesme, William, Bishop of Durham, Geoffrey, Bishop of Coutance, his nephew, Robert de Mowbray, Roger Bigod, Hugh de Grentmesnil, and some others, easily procured their assistance. They retired to their respective castles, expecting the support of a powerful army from Normandy. In the mean time, however, they commenced hostilities in several places, and made Bristol their head-quarters, appropriating the castle there as the receptacle of their nefarious plunder, which they collected in large quantities from the neighbouring country, as far as Berkeley and Bath. Having ravaged the county of Wiltshire, they re-entered Somersetshire, on the south-east, and sitting down before Ilchester, they were repulsed. At the instance of the Earl of Chester, William de Warrenne, and Robert Fitz-Hammon, the king consented to spare the lives of the conquered rebels; but he confiscated their estates, and banished the greatest part of them the kingdom.*

About the close of the eleventh century, Bristol is mentioned as a place of considerable note for trade to Ireland, and Norway, and every part of Europe. But there is one branch of its commerce, which reflects no credit on its history, and which we mention more willingly, that we may contribute towards that horror which every feeling mind must experience at the remembrance of the now abolished traffic in human blood. The fact is thus recorded in an old life of Wolfstan, or Wulfstan, Bishop of Worcester:—"There is a town, called Brickstou, opposite to Ireland, and extremely convenient for trading with that country,

* Saxon Chronicle, p. 195. Ordericus Vitalis, p. 668.

try. Wulfstan induced them to drop a barbarous custom, which neither the love of God, nor the king, could prevail on them to lay aside. This was the mart for slaves, collected from all parts of England, and particularly young women, whom they took care to provide with a pregnancy, in order to enhance their value. It was a most moving sight to see in their public markets, rows of young people of both sexes tied together with ropes, of great beauty, and in the flower of their youth, daily prostituted and sold. Execrable fact! Wretched disgrace! Men, destitute of the affections of the brute creation, delivering into slavery their relations, and even their very offspring!"* It is pleasing to notice these sentiments of abhorrence expressed at so early a period of our history; but, indeed, it was reserved for christians, of much later times, to sanction and practice a trade, at which human nature recoils, and which has, happily, at length fallen under the persevering efforts of the friends of humanity and virtue. We shudder at the idea of British youths, in a British city, being tied together, and sold, like the beasts on which they feed; but still there exist, and in that very city too, some, we hope they are but few, who would rejoice at the restoration of our African slave-trade; and who would feel, but very faintly, the "compunctious visitings of conscience" at beholding a like scene of barbarity once more exhibited in the streets of Barbadoes.†

During the sanguinary quarrel between King Stephen, and the Empress Matilda, Bristol, at one time, became the residence of that lady. The government of the city then belonged to her brother, Robert, Earl of Gloucester. She landed at Arundel with only one hundred and forty men, which so excited the fears of her mother-in-law, Adelais, that, to

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dispel

* Vit. Wulfstan, in Anglia Sacra.

† The future historians of England will record with reluctance the few venial errors of an administration that abolished the slave trade; and they will mention, with feelings of the most grateful kind, the name of that enlightened and benevolent patriot, through whose exertions, in the year 1811, a traffic, so disgraceful, was made felony by the law and punished, as a crime committed against the human race.

dispel her apprehensions, the empress removed to Bristol, and from thence to Gloucester, where she remained some time under the protection of a gallant nobleman, named Milo, who had warmly espoused her cause.*

After the defeat of the royalists, on the second of February, 1141, the captive monarch was conveyed to Gloucester, and from thence kept a close prisoner in Bristol, where he was loaded with irons, and treated with every species of insult and degradation. Bristol and its castle being wholly in the possession of the Earl Robert, and the triumphant empress, Baker informs us, that the queen placed her son here, to be educated among the sons of the principal inhabitants. He was nine years old, when he first came, and continued under the tuition of one Mathews till he had completed his thirteenth year. It was at this place that he formed his attachment to Robert Fitz-Harding; and when Henry came to the throne, he bestowed on his favourite the manor of Berthone, in Gloucestershire, and also gave him one hundred pounds per annum, with lands in Berkeley;† and afterwards the whole lordship of Berkeley, and Berkeley-Herne, belonging to it, of which Roger de Berkeley was then divested, on account of his attachment to King Stephen.‡ It was this Robert Fitz-Harding that, in the year 1148, laid the foundation of the Abbey of St. Augustine, and built the church and offices attached thereto, in the short space of six years. In 1168, Dermot Mac Murrough, King of Leinster, in Ireland, came over into England, with sixty of his adherents, to solicit succours from Henry the Second, which afterwards enabled that monarch to obtain possession of that kingdom, and which has, ever since, remained subject to the crown of England. During this visit of the Hibernian king, Robert Fitz-Harding entertained him and his company, in the most sumptuous manner, at Bristol.¶ Robert Fitz-Harding died

* Hume's Hist. Eng. I. 359, 8vo. ed. † Beauties, &c. Vol. V. p. 723.

‡ Ex Autogr. in Castro de Berkeley, in Col. Peer, IV. 1.

¶ Sir James Ware's Annals of Ireland, p. 3. Collins, IV. 2.

died on the fifth of February, 1170-71,* and, together with his wife, Eva, by whom he had issue five sons, lies buried in the quire of St. Augustine's Abbey, now the cathedral church of Bristol. He was styled *Canonicus*; and from this, it has been supposed, that he was a canon in his own abbey. †

During the reign of Henry the Second, this city was become a great place of trade, particularly for commerce with Ireland ‡ and that king granted a charter to the men of Redcliff, containing the following clause: "I grant that my men that dwell in my fee in the marsh, near the bridge of Bristow, have their certain customs, liberties, and quittances, through all England and Wales, as my burgesses; and namely those of Bristow, as my charter testifies: and I forbid that any one do them any injury, or reproach them upon this account." This charter bears date 1178; and from hence it appears that the city was united to Redcliff at a very early period. The bridge was undoubtedly constructed in consequence of the very great influx of wealth and population which Bristol, through its commercial importance, had then acquired. It would seem that the original bridge was constructed of wood; for, on rebuilding it, immense piers of solid masonry were found to be incorporated into large pieces of timber. It was during this reign, that the burgesses of Bristol had a grant of free toll, and other customs, throughout England, Wales, and Normandy; and the king granted to it a full power to inhabit and possess the city of Dublin, in Ireland, which, like other parts of that country, was at that time, but a very small remove from absolute barbarism. A colony from Bristol was, accordingly, sent thither.

The charter was renewed in 1190, by John, Earl of Morton, afterwards the weak, treacherous, and wicked king, whose character, Mr. Hume observes, "is nothing but a complication of vices, equally mean and odious; ruinous to himself, and destructive to his people." This renewed charter settled the boundaries

* MS. St. George penes Dom. Johan Pechell, Bart.

† Collins's Poetage, *ut sup.*

‡ Gul. Malm. Gest. Pont. 293.

boundaries of the city, and established the property and privileges of the inhabitants.

In the year 1210, this detestable monarch is said* to have demanded ten thousand marks from a Jew of this city; and that, on his refusal, he ordered one of his teeth to be drawn every day, till he should comply. The unfortunate Israelite, probably supposing that he should have little occasion for his teeth when he had parted with his money, lost seven out of eight, and then, inconsistently enough, paid the money, to save the remaining one. This extortion on the Jews furnished a sufficient example to his son, afterwards Henry the Third, who oppressed the Jews, in every part of his dominions, in the most outrageous manner. One tallage laid upon the Jews, in 1248, amounted to sixty thousand marks;† a sum, Mr. Hume remarks, equal to the whole yearly revenue of the crown. This last named monarch, when Prince Henry, was placed by his father in this city, as in a place of safety, during his minority, and that he might receive an education suited to his station.

In the year 1216, the Pope's legate, Guelo, held a synod at Bristol, at which, in the presence of Henry the Third, he solemnly excommunicated those barons who had adhered to Lewis, the French king's son;‡ and at a general council of the barons, held at this place on the eleventh of November, in the same year, the Earl of Pembroke, who, at the time of King John's death, was marshal of England, was chosen protector of the realm. In this year also, a new charter was granted, in which it was enacted, "that Bristol should be governed by a mayor, to be chosen in the same manner as was done in London; with two grave, sad, worshipful men, who were called prepositors." The name of the first mayor was Adam le Page. ||

About the year 1247, the city was joined to Redcliff by a bridge, the old wooden one having been destroyed. The key

was

* Matthew Paris's History of English Affairs, p. 160.

† Maddox's History and Antiquities of the Exchequer, p. 152.

‡ Mat. Paris, pp. 200, 202.

|| Heath's Bristol, 21.

was made at the joint expence of the citizens and the inhabitants of Redcliff. The course of the river was turned, by cutting a canal from Redcliff-beck to Tower Harratz; by this means a key was made for the safe birthing of ships, by which they allow water, grounded on a safe bed of mud, with less danger to their bottoms. This great improvement is thus described by Leland:—"The shippes of olde tyme cam up only by Avon to a place caulld the Bek, where was and is depthe enowghe of water; but the botom is very stony and rughe, sens, by polecye, they trenched somewhat alofe by the northe-west of the old key on Avon, anno 1247, and in continuance bryngynge the course of From that way, hathe made softe and whoey harborow for grete shippes. Avon ryver, abowt a quarter of a myle beneth the towne, in a medow, casteth up a grete arme or gut, by the which the greater vessels as mayne toppē shippes com up to the towne. So that Avon doth peninsulate the towne, and vessels may cum of both sides of it."† The expence of cutting this channel, or trench, for the course of the Frome through the key, amounted to the sum of five thousand pounds.‡ It will be seen in a subsequent part of this account, that Bristol Harbour has received great and important improvements within these few years. The bridge, that was built at the time just mentioned, was of stone, and had houses on both sides, with a chapel in the form of a gate-way, across the centre. The chapel was destroyed in the year 1644; and at length the bridge itself having become dangerous, no heavy laden carriages were permitted to pass over it. In the year 1768 a new one was finished and opened, having been begun in 1764. On the erection of the bridge in 1247, it was ordered, that in future there should be only one market for provisions. Before this time there were two provision markets, one in Redcliff, and the other in the city.

In the year 1263, the valiant and intrepid Prince Edward was taken prisoner, in a parley with Simon de Mountford, Earl

of

* Itin. VII. p. 71. † Ibid. V. 64. ‡ Gough, Add. Cam. L. p. 123.

of Leicester, at Windsor,* and was kept a prisoner in Bristol Castle; but two years afterwards, the royalists having gained a signal triumph over the perfidious Leicester, at the battle of Hymsham, this heroic prince took the castle from the barons, and fined the town in the sum of one thousand pounds.

In the year 1283 Edward the First held a parliament in this city, which, however, he removed, in the same year, to Shrewsbury,† and from thence, in a few days, to Acton-Burnell; and now, for the first time, a writ was issued to the mayor and magistrates of Bristol to send two persons as representatives. At this time, as we have already stated,‡ David ap Ilewellyn, the last of the race of the Welsh princes, was tried and condemned, and executed in the most ignominious manner, as a traitor, for having defended, by force of arms, “the liberties of his native country, together with his own hereditary authority.”§

The next royal visit to this city was in the year 1308, when Edward the Second accompanied hither Piers Gaveston, son of a Gascon knight, who had gained a complete ascendancy over the king's affections, on his way to Ireland, having appointed him lord-lieutenant of that country,|| besides conferring on him lands and riches both in Gascony and England.¶

In the year 1326, during the unnatural and insidious rebellion of Queen Isabella, the unfortunate Edward was pursued to Bristol, by the Earl of Kent, seconded by the foreign forces under John de Hainault. The fugitive monarch had falsely calculated on the loyalty of his subjects in the western parts of his dominions. The elder Hugh Spencer, created Earl of Winchester, was at this time governor of the castle of Bristol; but the garrison mutinied against him, and he fell into the hands

* M. Paris, p. 669. † Vide ante, p. 56. ‡ Ante, pp. 56, 57.

§ Hemingford's Chronicle, Vol. I. p. 12. Trivet Cont. p. 259. Ann. Waverl. p. 238. Chron. T. Wykes, p. 111. And Matthew of Westminster, p. 411. as cited by Hume, Vol. II. p. 242.

|| Rymer's Fœdera, Vol. II. p. 80.

¶ Ibid. Vol. III. p. 87.

hands of his infuriate enemies. It was under the cloak of freeing the king from the influence of the Spectre, and of Piers Gavaston, that the queen carried on her traitorous purposes, and obtained adherents to her cause; and now that one of the ostensible objects of her pursuit had fallen into her power, she did not fail to manifest the fery of her character, by the speedy execution of the venerable nobleman: Spencer was then in his ninetieth year. He was immediately, on the surrender of the town, which she had besieged, without any formal accusation, and without even the shadow of a trial, condemned to be hung in his armour, even in the presence of his own son. His body having been suspended on a gibbet during four days, it was taken down, cut in pieces, and thrown to the dogs.* His head was set on a pole at Winchester, and there exposed to the indignities of a misguided populace.

William de Colford, being recorder of Bristol, in 1345, drew up a code of municipal laws; and the corporation agreed on several useful regulations, which were afterwards confirmed in a charter granted by Edward the Third. Among these laws there were a few that bore the appearance of cruelty, or absurdity, particularly those relative to leperous persons and loose women; the former were driven from the precincts of the town, and the latter were condemned to perform their nightly preambulations without the walls; and, further, that should any such woman be found, it was ordered that the doors and windows of the house in which they resided should be unhung, and be carried by the mayor's officers to the house of the constable of the ward, and be there kept till the women were removed. It was also ordained, that no whore should at any time appear in the streets, or within the Bars, in St. James's, with uncovered heads. A similar law, with respect to the uncovered ladies of London, at this time, would, perhaps, have a beneficial effect on the morals of many young persons.

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* Leland's Collectanea, Vol. I. p. 673. T. de la More, 599. Walsingham, p. 125. Froissart's Chron. liv. i. chap. 12.

One of the most important events to the city of Bristol took place in the year 1347, when Edward the Third, by charter, constituted it a county within itself. On this occasion, new boundaries, distinguished by stones, were marked out on both sides the Avon. Some alterations also took place in the police and municipal laws, chiefly, that the mayor and citizens were enabled to elect a sheriff and forty common council-men, who had power to make laws and levy taxes. Some reduction also took place in the power and jurisdiction of the constable of the castle.

During the reign of the weak and extravagant Richard the Second, Henry, Duke of Lancaster, landed in England, having a retinue of sixty persons, including the Archbishop of Canterbury, and his nephew, the young Earl of Arundel. He was immediately joined by two of the most powerful barons in the kingdom—the Earls of Westmoreland and Northumberland. The object of this invasion was sworn to be no other than to recover the duchy of Lancaster, from which Henry had unjustly been detained. Pretensions so reasonable soon procured him large reinforcements, and his army, in a very little time, amounted to sixty thousand combatants.

At this time King Richard was in Ireland, to which place he had gone, as he said, to revenge the death of his cousin, Roger, Earl of Marche, the presumptive heir of the crown, who had lately been slain in a skirmish by the natives.* During Richard's absence, the Duke of York was left guardian of the realm, a circumstance, owing to his weakness or his treachery, by no means favourable to the safety of the country. An army, however, of forty thousand men, was soon assembled at St. Albans; but the greatest part of them secretly, and at length openly, declared in favour of the rebels; even the guardian himself publicly espoused the cause of Henry, and avowed his determination of supporting him in his claims on the duchy of Lancaster. The two armies having united, the Duke

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* Hume, III. p. 38.

of Lancaster became master of the kingdom. He proceeded to Bristol, then one of the first towns in the nation; and having obliged the place to surrender, he seized, in the castle, the Earl of Wiltshire, Sir John Bussy, and Sir Henry Green; and, at the instigation of the mob, without trial, had them instantly beheaded. The sequel is generally known: Richard was deposed by the parliament, and was, not long after, murdered, or starved to death, in the castle of Pomfret, in the thirty-fourth year of his age, and the twenty-third of his reign; before which, the triumphant Lancaster had ascended the throne, under the title of Henry the Fourth.*

This departure from the hereditary succession, to which the English people had been so long accustomed, but ill accorded with the views, or the prejudices of the aristocracy; and in the very first parliament which Henry the Fourth assembled the most disgraceful animosities broke out. "Forty gnanlets, the pledges of furious battle, were thrown on the floor of the house, by noblemen, who gave mutual challenges; and *liar*, and *traitor*, resounded from all quarters." These quarrels terminated in open insurrection; when the city of Bristol took a considerable share in the royal cause, and beheaded, without trial, Lords Spencer and Lumley, two principal conspirators against Henry. The head of the first of these confederate lords was carried, in shameful triumph, on the end of a pole, by his brother-in-law, the infamous Earl of Rutland, who presented it to Henry, as a token of loyalty and attachment.

Nothing farther, of material historical importance, seems to have occurred, in regard to Bristol, till the year 1490, when the streets were newly paved, and Henry the Seventh, and the Lord Chancellor, kept the royal court at St. Augustine's-place; on which occasion, it is said, that the citizens, willing to shew all due respect to their king, arrayed themselves in their best apparel; but the monarch remarking that some of the ladies were
dressed,

* Knighton's History of the Deposition of Richard II. in Col. of Eng. Hist. p. 2757.

dressed, as he conceived, much above their station, ordered that every citizen, possessing lands to the amount of twenty pounds, should pay twenty shillings for the sumptuous dress of his wife. This monarch, in the year 1500, granted a new charter to the corporation, for six aldermen, a recorder, two sheriffs, forty common council-men, a chamberlain, a dean, a water-bailiff, and gaol-delivery. He also presented his own sword to the mayor, to be borne before him. This sword is still in the possession of the corporation.

Henry the Eighth, by letters patent, made this place a city, and a bishop's see, at the same time that he conferred a similar honour on the towns of Westminster, Oxford, Peterborough, Chester, and Gloucester. Five of these bishoprics still subsist. Paul Bush was the first Bishop of Bristol.

The twenty-fourth of Queen Elizabeth, a new charter was granted for twelve aldermen, and also for dividing the city into as many wards. It is also said, that the queen paid a visit to Bristol: a room belonging to a house in Small-street, is still denominated Queen Elizabeth's room.

Another charter was granted by Charles the First, in which, for the sum of nine hundred and fifty-nine pounds, the castle and its precincts were finally separated from the county of Gloucester, and made part of the city and independent jurisdiction of Bristol.

During the disgraceful disturbances which distracted these realms, in the unfortunate reign of Charles the First, the city of Bristol took an active part. In 1641, Denzil Hollis was appointed to the command of the Bristol militia. This person was one of the most active men in the presbyterian party, in opposition to Cromwell and the independents; yet he subscribed one thousand pounds against the king. He was one of the five members of the long parliament, who were demanded by Charles when he went to the House of Commons; and in 1640, was sent up to the lords, with an impeachment against the haughty and high-spirited churchman, Laud. In 1642 the parliament, in whose

whose hands this city then was, strengthened and repaired the walls and castle, and forts were erected at Brandon and St. Michael's Hill, now the Royal Fort. The year following, Colonel Finnes, son of Lord Say, at that time governor of Bristol, discovered a design of Robert Yeomans and George Bouchier, to deliver up the city to the royal forces. A council of war was accordingly held, and the loyal traitors were condemned and hung, on the thirtieth of May, in the same year, notwithstanding the king himself had addressed a letter to the mayor and citizens on their behalf. About two months after this event, Prince Rupert resolved to lay siege to the city. The garrison, under Finnes, consisted of 2500 foot, and two regiments, one of light-horse, and the other of dragoons. The fortifications, which had been begun the year before, not being finished, the prince resolved, at once, to storm the city; and the next morning, with little other provisions for such an enterprize, than the great courage of his troops, began the assault. The Cornish regiments attacked the city on the west side, with inconceivable impetuosity. The middle division soon succeeded in gaining the wall; yet by means of the bravery of the garrison, added to the vantage ground which they occupied, the assailants were, in the end, repulsed with considerable loss, both of officers and privates. The prince conducted his side of the assault with similar courage, and almost equal loss, but with better success. "One party," says Hume, "led on by Lord Grandison, was, indeed, beaten off, and the commander himself mortally wounded; another, conducted by Colonel Bellasis, met with a similar fate; but Washington, with a less party, finding a place in the curtain weaker than the rest, broke in, and quickly made room for the horse to follow. By this irruption, however, nothing but the suburbs was gained: the entrance into the town was still more difficult; and by the loss already sustained, as well as by the prospect of further danger, every one was extremely discouraged; when, to the great joy of the army, the city beat parley."

a parley.*" The siege lasted three days, and the garrison was to march out with their arms and baggage, leaving their cannon, ammunition, and colours. Finnes, the governor, was accused of cowardice, brought to a court-martial, and condemned to lose his head; but the general, at the instance of his father, the first Viscount Say and Sele, remitted his sentence.† Cromwell afterwards made him one of his lords,‡ speaker in the upper house, commissioner of the great seal, and privy counsellor.¶ He was the author of some speeches and pamphlets, and died in December, 1669.§ The barony of Say and Sele passed, by royal patent, in 1781, to Colonel Thomas Twisleton, and the heirs of his body, in consequence of petitions to the king and the lords to that effect, in the committee upon which, it having appeared that the petitioner had made out his claims to that barony, and to the dignity and honour attached to the same. The grounds of this claim were, briefly, that he was great-grandson and heir of the body of Elizabeth Twisleton, daughter and co-heir of James, second Viscount Say and Sele.

Probably the pardon of Finnes might be facilitated by the complaints that were made of the violence that was exercised towards the garrison, contrary to the terms of the capitulation.¶

In this assault of Bristol, the royalists suffered very severely. Five hundred of the best soldiers perished, besides Grandison, Hanning, Trevannion, and Moyle, all persons of condition. Colonel Bellasis, Ashley, and Sir John Owen, were wounded. Still, however, the success was considerable, and raised the courage of the royal party not a little. The king, however, affected not to aspire to entire victory over the parliament, and issued

* Hist. Eng. VII. 522, 523.

† Rushworth's Historical Collections, Vol. VI. p. 284. Clarendon's History of the Rebellion, Vol. III. pp. 293, 294, *et seq.*; and Noble's Memoirs of the Cromwell family.

‡ Lives of the Chancellors. ¶ Collins's Peerage, Vol. VI. p. 32.

§ Wood's Athenæ Oxoniensis, Vol. II. p. 454.

¶ Clarendon, Vol. III. p. 297.

issued a proclamation, renewing his intentions of making peace, upon the re-establishment of the ancient constitution. On the second of August, he joined the camp of Bristol; and on the Sunday following attended divine service at the cathedral church. The royal cause, however, did not long continue in so prosperous a state. In two years after the siege of Bristol, just related; this city once more fell into the hands of the parliamentarians. The memorable battle of Naseby,* by which the royal army, though its loss in slain was not equal to that of Cromwell's, was almost exhausted by the numbers taken prisoners, and the total capture of the king's artillery and ammunition, gave a fatal turn to the affairs of the royalists. General Fairfax, having succeeded in reducing several places in this county, on the twenty-third of July, 1645, resolved to lay siege to Bristol. The great strength of the garrison, and the reputed courage of Prince Rupert, the governor, it was thought, would require no ordinary exertions in the attack; accordingly Fairfax did not fail to make large and suitable preparations; but, to the astonishment of every one, and the extreme mortification of the royalists, a weaker defence was not made of any place, during the war. The parliamentary forces were no sooner entered the lines, than Rupert capitulated, and the city surrendered to Fairfax.† This conquest might more easily be obtained, in consequence of the plague, which raged the same year in the city, and carried off no less than 3000 souls. The disaster, however, extremely mortified the unhappy monarch, who had but just before received assurances from the prince, that he could defend the place for four months, unless a mutiny should oblige him to surrender. This delusive boast set Charles on making large preparations, or rather, of devising schemes, for the relief of the city, when the news of its surrender threw him into the most violent paroxysms of indignation and anger, insomuch that "he instantly recalled all the prince's commissions, and sent him a pass to go beyond

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* Vide Beanties, &c. Vol. IX. 432, *et seq.* and Vol. XI. 162.

† Rush. Hist. Col. VII. p. 83.

the seas.”* In the city, were found 140 pieces of cannon, 100 barrels of powder; in the royal fort, victuals for 150 men for 390 days; and in the castle, not less than half the same quantity. The prince’s garrison consisted of 2500 foot, 1000 horse, and as many trained bands and auxiliaries. This loss, following so close to that of Naseby, almost decided the fate of the kingdom. The king never recovered his affairs afterwards; and when Cromwell was made lord protector, he ordered the castle to be demolished, and streets have since been built on its site. In 1650, the parliament gave orders to build the walls about the royal fort, and gave 1000*l.* towards defraying the expence thereof.

We have now to relate a fact or two, connected with the history of this city, arising out of that rage for religious innovation or reform, that burst forth about the period of which we are now treating. The Society of Friends, or as they were in derision called Quakers, began, about this time, to attract popular observation. In 1659-4 John Camm and John Audland went to Bristol, where their public ministrations excited great notice. For want of room in their meeting-houses, their assemblies were held in the open fields; and it is said,† that multitudes, to the amount of 4000, sometimes attended. The increasing numbers of the Friends in this city, at length excited the notice of the magistrates, and they were expelled, with every brand of infamy and persecution that the fury of their puritanical christian brethren could desire, or durst exercise.

A year or two after this, one James Nailor, a mistaken *Friend*, departing from that primitive modesty and simplicity that so eminently characterize the mild genius of quakerism, took it into his head to make a public entrance, on horseback, into the city of Bristol, attended by several men and women,
who

* Clarendon, Vol. IV. p. 690, 695. Walker’s Historical Discourses, p. 137.

† In a recent History of Dissenters, by two Calvinian preachers; but on what authority we know not, as those writers have not often judged it expedient to inform their readers from whence they have collected the materials for their very singular, illiberal, and unsatisfactory compilation.

who are reported to have addressed him in a manner highly unbecoming a mortal being, and blasphemous to the religion and spirit of the Son of God. Nailor's extravagancies could not fail to call forth the notice of the magistrates. They made this man's folly a pretence to punish his unoffending brethren; and several of them were closely imprisoned, on a charge of blasphemy. They were all sent for by the saintly protector, and Nailor was arraigned at the bar of the honourable and hypocritical house, who "resolved"* him a grand impostor, and guilty of horrid blasphemy. He was sentenced to stand two hours in the pillory, at Westminster, to be whipped from thence to the Old Exchange by the common executioner, then to have his punishment in the pillory repeated; his tongue bored through with a hot iron, and his forehead branded with the letter B,† and then to be sent back to Bristol, to be again whipped and imprisoned. Such were the tender mercies of those who had themselves but just escaped the fangs of popish persecutors, and whose spiritual vagaries were infinitely more injurious to sound religion and real morality, though, perhaps less obvious, than any of which this poor misguided enthusiast had been guilty. Nailor was not released from his imprisonment till the year after the death of the usurping and canting protector, in 1658. He afterwards repented of his conduct, and was restored to reason and the fellowship of his society.‡

On the eighth of December, 1657, the corporation received the following letter from Cromwell:—

" OLIVER, P.

" Trustie and well-beloved, we greeete you well: remembering well the late expressions of love that I have had from you, I
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* Thurloe's State Papers, Vol. V. p. 708.

† History of Religion, by an Impartial Hand, Vol. III. p. 455.

‡ The Harleian Miscellany, Vol. VI. contains a circumstantial account of Nailor's extraordinary journey to Bristol.

cannot omit any opportunity to expresse my care of you. I doe heare on all hands, that the cavalier* party are designing to run us into blood. We are, I hope, taking the best care we can, by the blessing of God, to obviate this danger. But our intelligence on all hands being, that they have a design upon your cittie, we could not but warne you thereof, and give authoritie, as we doe hereby, to put yourselves into the best posture you can for your own defence, by raising your militia by virtue of the commission formerly sent you, and putting them in a readinesse for the purpose aforesaid; letting you also knowe, that for your better encouragement herein, you shall have a troop of horse sent you, to quarter in or near your towne. We desire you to let us heare, from time to time, what occurs touching the malignant parties; and so we bid you farewell. Given at Whitehall, this second of December, 1657.

“ To our trustie and well beloved the mayor, aldermen, and common council of the cittie of Bristowe.”

This command called for a regiment of militia, and the city prepared for defence.

In the third year after the restoration, on the fifth of September, the king and queen, James, Duke of York, and his duchesse, and others of the nobility, were magnificently entertained at Bristol, by the mayor; 150 pieces of ordnance were discharged in the place now occupied by Queen's-square; and the year following, the king confirmed the different charters of his late unfortunate father.

In 1683 was exhibited one of the sham plots and fancied secret rebellions, which are ever brooding in the minds of a corrupt or a tyrannical ministry. The Rye-House Plot, as it is called, it is said, had involved the city in its vortex, and a party was formed, or feigned, for seizing the town and the ships in the haven

* The nick-name by which the royalists were at that time denominated. The parliamentarians were called Roundheads, on account of the close manner in which it was usual for them to crop their hair.

haven for the conspirators; but that design, like the pop-gun plot of later times,* having answered the purpose of its loyal inventors, was soon forgotten, and Bristol, like the rest of the cities in the kingdom, remained faithful to the sovereign, and true to the constitution. In the following year Charles granted a new charter, in which he confirmed the letters patent, by which this city was made a city and county of itself. By this charter, it was granted to the mayor and two sheriffs to have a common seal; and to them and the common councilmen, not exceeding forty-three, power to make laws for the government of the city. The mayor and sheriffs to be chosen on the fifteenth of September, and be sworn on the twenty-ninth; the recorder to be a barrister of five years standing, and to have the royal approbation. The aldermen to be twelve, and the recorder the senior. A fine of 500*l.* to be imposed on those who shall refuse to be chosen, unless not worth 2000*l.* The aldermen to be justices of the peace, and to hold quarterly sessions for trying offences. A town clerk to be chosen, a barrister of three years' standing; a steward of the sheriffs' court, and two coroners. The mayor and other magistrates to have the regulation of the markets and fairs, and to hold a pie-poudre court, &c.

During Monmouth's rebellion, in 1685,† this town, though it did not experience any attack from the rebels, was, at one time, thrown into great alarm. On the twenty-fifth of June, it was reported that the duke was approaching it from Taunton and Wells: the Duke of Beaufort, then lord-lieutenant of the city, drew up twenty-one companies of foot on Redcliff-Mead, and declared, that if the citizens shewed any disposition towards insurrection, he would immediately set fire to the town. On this determination, Monmouth is reported to have said, "God forbid that I should bring the two calamities of fire and sword on so noble a city;" and then marched towards Bath.‡

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* Belsham's History of Great Britain, Vol. IX. pp. 228, 397.

† Vide ante, p. 345, et seq.

‡ Barrett's Bristol, p. 694.

In the year 1702 Queen Ann visited Bristol, in company with the Prince of Denmark, and was entertained in a splendid manner; and in 1710, her majesty paid another visit, and renewed all former charters;* at the time granting a pardon to the mayor and other officers, for having executed their offices without royal authority. The charter, by which their corporation liberties were confirmed and enlarged, ordains, "that Bristol remains for ever a city corporate, and county of itself; and that its magistrates hold government over all its boundaries, by land and water; that the body corporate be known and distinguished as the mayor, burgesses, and commonalty of the city of Bristol; that the recorder shall be the first alderman, with the others, making twelve, according to the number of wards; that two sheriffs be chosen annually out of the common council, which are to consist of forty-two persons, besides the mayor:" in short, this charter fully confirms every useful regulation, and every important branch of municipal right conferred on the city and corporation by former monarchs. On the accession of George the First Bristol was among those places which manifested their mad attachment to the fallen, and almost persecuted tories, and their disloyalty to the new monarch and his whig government. The public rejoicings were interrupted by a high church rabble; the houses of those who illuminated were furiously assaulted, and their windows broken; with such other demonstrations of zeal as the Sacheverelites of that time, and their successors of later periods, thought requisite for the welfare of the church, and the maintenance of good order.

Having now glanced at most of the important historical events immediately connected with the city of Bristol, we proceed to a detailed account of the several objects of importance, or curiosity with which it abounds.

Bristol, as we have already intimated, stands on the banks of the Avon and Frome, the former being its principal river. The city is about eight miles from the mouth of that river, where it discharges

* See Bristol Charters.

discharges itself into the Bristol Channel, or, as it is sometimes called, the Severn Sea. Till Bristol was made an independent county, it was usually reckoned to belong to Somersetshire, occupying the southern extremity of Gloucestershire, and the northern of Somersetshire. It is now usually mentioned in connection with the latter of these counties. The old town, which is now in the heart of the city, stands upon a narrow hill, in a valley, and is bounded by the Avon on the south, and the Frome on the north and west, and by a deep ditch, or moat of the castle, on the east. The whole city stands on several rising grounds: St. Michael's Hill and Kingsdown are the highest; their summits being at least 200 feet higher than any other part. These elevations, though themselves seated in low ground, and the windings of the two rivers through the city, render Bristol altogether one of the most healthy and pleasing cities in England.

The city boundaries, by land, on the southern, or Gloucestershire, side of the Avon, include nearly five miles; and the northern, almost three miles: the liberties occupying a circumference of upwards of seven miles,* though the boundaries of the whole town include many streets and houses within the jurisdiction and government of the county of Gloucester. It is, however, difficult to convey a distinct idea of the full extent of this large and populous city, as it is continually increasing in size and importance, and is supposed to have acquired upwards of 8000 houses since the commencement of the eighteenth century. In 1777, an act passed, by which the boundaries south of the Avon, are much extended, its jurisdiction by water reaching from Tower Harratz to Kingsroad, and from thence down the south side of the Bristol Channel, as low as the two islands called the Flat-Holmes and the Steep-Holmes, and from thence eastward to the Deuny Island, and so on again to Kingsroad.

According

* To preserve the true boundaries, an annual perambulation is made by the city officers, on choosing the mayor.

According to the POPULATION returns in 1801, Bristol contains 10,403 houses, and 63,645 inhabitants, of whom, if these returns are correct, 26,943 are males, and 36,702 are females. Of this number, 10,190 were returned as being employed in trade and manufactures. This population includes the parishes of Clifton, Mangotsfield, and Stapleton, in the hundred of Barton Regis, or out parishes; but in this addition is not reckoned the parish of Bedminster, containing 3278 persons. These returns, however, convey a very imperfect idea of the population of Bristol with its suburbs, and environs. By a survey, taken in 1786,* it was found that the city contained 13,000 houses, and about 30,000 inhabitants. In 1757, it is said to have contained 13,000 houses, and 90,000 inhabitants.† In the year following, Mr. Anderson‡ perambulated the city for two successive days; and from a near examination of the number of houses on new foundations, and streets erected since 1751, he concluded that it could not contain less than 100,000 souls, and is as big as London within the walls. "Dublin," says he, "appears more populous in the streets; but it is the residence of the chief governors, of all public officers, guards, nobility, and gentry, with numerous retinues of people in the streets, without being larger than Bristol, where the inhabitants are private families and manufacturers in employ within doors." Mr. Barrett thinks this too large a calculation; but in a more recent publication,|| we are told that, in 1797, there were many hundreds of handsome houses building on new foundations, in and about Bristol, Clifton, and the Hotwells; and this account concludes by adding, that "if in our computation of people at Bristol, we include its environs, viz. the out-parish of St. Philip and Jacob, Barton-hill, Upper and Lower Easton, Baptist Mills, St. George's parish, the out-parish of St. James, and the new buildings in the parish of Westbury; the parishes

* England's Gazetteer, *apud* Bristol. † Barrett's History, 99.

‡ Historical and Chronological Deduction of Trade and Commerce.

|| History, Antiquities, Survey, and Description of the City and Suburbs of Bristol, &c.; by the Rev. George Heath,

parishes of St. John and Bedminster, and Clifton, and the town of Hotwells, all of which pertain to the city, or are in the vicinity of the suburbs, we may find the whole to contain upwards of 100,000 souls." And, certainly, if we take into the account the recent improvements, particularly at Clifton, this calculation, we are persuaded, does not exceed the truth. In 1801, however, it appeared, that the number of inhabitants in the interior part of the city, had decreased; which the Rev. J. New, in a letter to the editor of Mr. Farley's Bristol Journal, attempts to account for, by representing, that within the last seventy years many houses have been destroyed, either for erecting new streets, or large buildings; amounting altogether, to several hundreds. Mr. New is, nevertheless, persuaded that the parishes in the suburbs will more than make up the deficiency, and prove that the population will not fall short of 100,000.* The County Annual Register states,† that according to the whole amount of the population returns already referred to, including both the Gloucestershire and Somersetshire sides of the Avon, Bristol in 1809 contained about 67,000 souls; and the same work adds, that with respect to improvements in public buildings, few places can vie with the recent ones, both for pleasure and business, exclusive of 1500 houses, erected within these five years.

As a place of TRADE and COMMERCE, Bristol is, perhaps, second only to London;‡ but the increasing pressure of the times, and the present wild and injurious policy respecting our commercial and continental relations, every year retard the extension of its commerce, and the importance of its situation. The Avon is now navigable for vessels of the largest

* Vide Monthly Magazine, Vol. XII. pp. 273, 274, where there is a circumstantial, and apparently correct, statement of the causes of decrease in the city, and of increase in the suburbs.

† Vol. I. Part IV. pp. 60, 61.

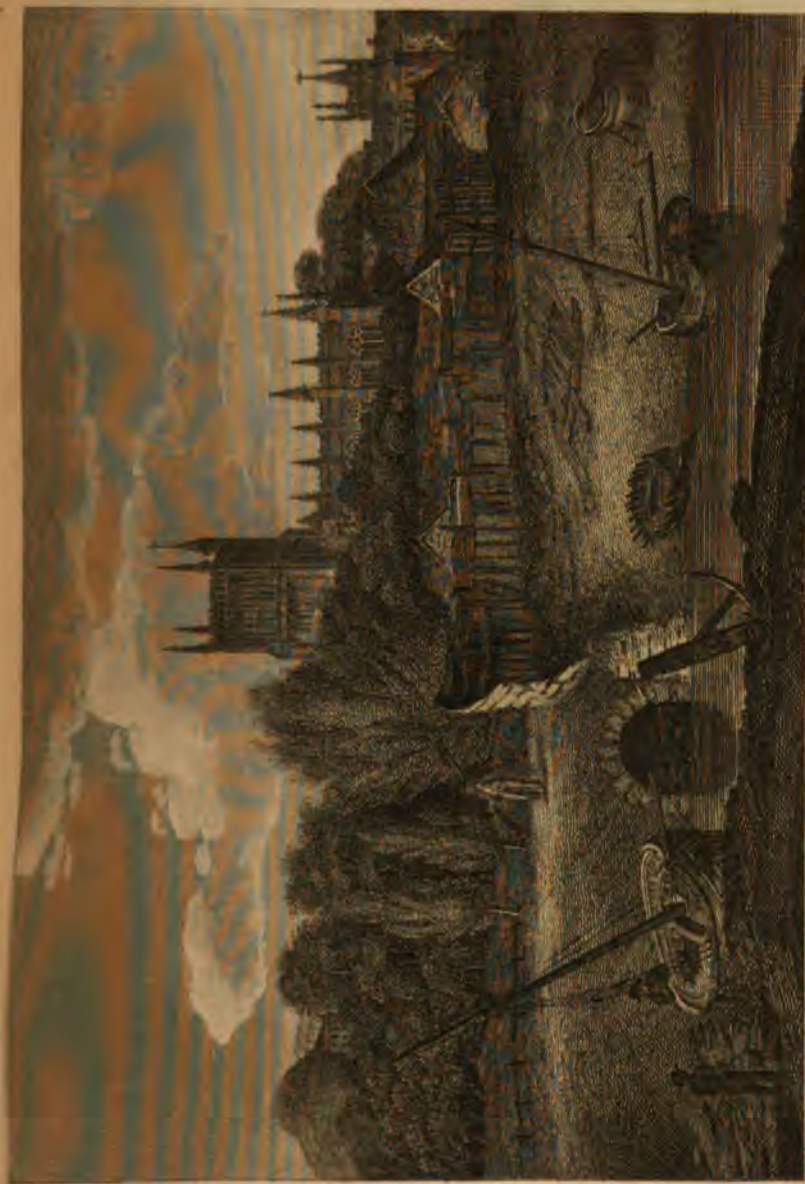
‡ Liverpool, it is said, has at length surpassed this port, in the extent of its commerce. See Beauties, Vol. IX. p. 196.

largest burthen, which ride in perfect safety in deep water. The vicinity of the Severn; and the central situation of the town, give it a facility of communication of which few other cities can boast. But a more particular view of the commerce of Bristol may be taken from a description of its harbour, and those public buildings and institutions immediately connected therewith, which shall be noticed in their proper places.

This city has several PUBLIC EDIFICES of great beauty and importance. Here are nineteen churches, belonging to the establishment, besides places of worship appropriate to almost all the various denominations of dissenters, and a synagogue for the service of the Jews.

The *Cathedral*, situate at College-green, was originally the collegiate church of the monastery of St. Augustine, and was founded by Robert Fitz-Harding, before-mentioned. At the time of the dissolution, by Henry the Eighth, some have erroneously supposed, the whole of this building was destroyed, except the arched gateway leading from the upper to the lower green, at the west end of the cathedral, which was the chief entrance to the monastery. This gate has been reckoned one of the finest remains of architectural antiquity in the kingdom. It is certain, however, that it was not finished, or at least the inscription not placed there, till after Henry the Second, who confirmed the foundation of the monastery, and contributed to its expence, came to the throne. The inscription on the north front, which is in Latin, is to the following effect :—
 “ King Henry the Second, and Lord Robert, son of Harding, son of the King of Denmark, were the first founders of this monastery.” It was erected about 1460, as a priory of Black Canons. The east part was added the twenty-fifth of Edward the First,* by Edmund Knowles, the abbot, who died in 1332. The abbot, William Hunt, added or repaired the choir in 1463. In 1481 and 1500, the upper part was repaired by the abbot, John Newland, or Nailheart; who was assisted in
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* Reg. Wigorn, in Barrett, p. 269.



BRISTOL CATHEDRAL,

view from the Sea.

Engraved by W. Martin del. from a drawing by J. Smith.



the labour by the abbot, Elliot.* The respective dimensions of this cathedral are as follow: Length, from east to west, 175 feet, whereof the choir includes 100; the body and side aisles are 73 feet in breadth; the chapter-house, 46 in length, and 36 in breadth; and the tower 127 feet high. The cloisters were originally 103 feet square; but they are partly destroyed. The total dimensions are 175—128. This church displays two distinct species of architecture, both beautiful; and furnishes altogether a very favourable specimen of that species of architecture which distinguishes the early part of the fourteenth century, both as applied to roofs and arcades.† The Elder Lady's Chapel and Chapter House are semi, or mixed Norman, while the nave and choir are pure Gothic.

The general appearance of this cathedral is somewhat heavy; the tower low, resembling that of Winchester; the windows are of painted glass; and the inside adorned with a few monuments. On the north side of the gateway, already mentioned, are four statues: a king, a knight, and two religious; there are also statues of Henry the Second, and the two abbots, Newland and Elliot: underneath is the inscription, with their arms. On the south side are two other statues of ecclesiastics, but of whom nothing is known with certainty. Above are the Virgin and Child, and a statue, probably of St. Augustine. The inside is richly ornamented with Saxon interlaced arches, though the ornaments are now so confused that it is difficult to distinguish them.‡

The cathedral, as it now stands, consists of the cross of the old church, the tower, crowned with battlements and four pinnacles, and all the rest of the old church eastward. The abutments are of amazing strength, and project many

* Willis's Survey of Cathedrals, Vol. II. p. 761.

† Dallaway's Observations on English Architecture, p. 24.

‡ Bishop Lyttleton, in a MS. in the library of the Society of Antiquaries, as cited by Barrett, p. 293, gives it as his opinion, that the abbey gateway, with the Chapter House walls, and its door-way, were of true Saxon architecture. Gough Add. Cam. I. p. 125.

many feet from the walls. From the door to the church pavement is a descent by eight steps, which have been placed there in consequence of the ground outside having been so much raised. The beautifully arched roof of the church is remarkable for having the two side aisles of equal height with the nave and choir. The roof of these two aisles is uncommonly curious, having arches supporting arches. In the body of the church stands a stone pulpit, decorated with the arms of his majesty, the Prince of Wales, the arms of the bishopric, those of the city, also those of the Berkeley family, and Bishop Wright's, by whom it was given to the church. In pannelled niches of the screen, before the choir, are paintings of the twelve minor prophets. This screen has, also, a fine Gothic gateway, with the royal arms of Henry the Eighth and Prince Edward over it.

The altar has an emblematic painting of the trine Deity;* being a triangle in a circle, surrounded by cherubs, done by Vansomerens. The windows at each end of the side aisles are said to have been presented to that church by the celebrated courtesan, Eleanor, or, as she is vulgarly called, Nell, Gwynn. The great east window is of ancient stained glass, and the side-aisle windows of enamelled glass, representing various subjects in scripture history.

On the western side is an elegant monument, in the form of a Gothic arch, of Sienna marble, to Mrs. Draper, Sterne's fair correspondent, *Eliza*. On the arched back-ground are two female figures of white marble, in alto-relievo, standing on each side

* "I was very much scandalized at a large silver image of the Trinity, where the *Father* is represented under the figure of a decrepid old man, with a beard down to his knees, and a triple crown on his head, holding in his arms the *Son*, fixed on the cross, and the *Holy Ghost*, in the shape of a dove, hovering over him." Works of Lady Mary Wortley Montagu, Vol. I. p. 219. 12mo. Edit. 1805. Perhaps a triangle in a circle, surrounded with chubby-faced boys, is not less unworthy of the character of the invisible and incomprehensible Jehovah, than the absurd figures by which He is profanely designated in the church of Ratisbon.

side of a semi-cubical pedestal, supporting an urn, with flowers, in the form of a wreath, hanging down the side. On the right, is a figure, representing Genius, with her left hand on her breast; her right, holding a trumpet of *Fame* leaning against her shoulder, and having a flame issuing from it. On the left is another figure, representing *Benevolence*, looking at a nest in her left hand, in which is a pelican, feeding her young with her blood, which falls in large drops : her right hand points to the following inscription :—

“ Sacred to the memory of Mrs. Elizabeth Draper, in whom *Genius* and *Benevolence* were united. She died August third, 1778, aged thirty-five.”

In the north aisle is a monument to Mrs. Mason, wife of the late Rev. William Mason, long celebrated as a poet and suffering patriot; but whose memory, in the judgment of many, receives some taint from that political apostacy which the mad revolutionists of France tempted him to fall into towards the close of his life. This monument is no way remarkable except for the inscription, which was composed by Mr Mason himself :—

“ Take, holy earth, all that my soul holds dear :
 Take that best gift which Heaven so lately gave :
 To Bristol's fount I bore with trembling care
 Her faded form ; she bow'd to taste the wave,
 And died. Does youth, does beauty read the line?
 Does sympathetic fear their breasts alarm ?
 Speak, dear Maria : breathe a strain divine :
 Ev'n from the grave thou shalt have power to charm.
 Bid them be chaste, be innocent, like thee ;
 Bid them in duty's sphere as meekly move ;
 And, if so fair, from vanity so free ;
 As firm in friendship and as fond in love,
 Tell them, though 'tis an awful thing to die,
 ('Twas ev'n to thee!) yet, the dread path once trod,
 Heaven lifts its everlasting portals high,
 And bids the pure in heart behold their God.”

No apology is requisite for the insertion of any thing which may have come from the pen of the author of *Elfrida*, *Caractacus*, and the *English Garden*. At no great distance from this is the tomb of Mr. William Powell, the comedian. On a pyramidal table is a basso-relievo figure of the deceased, with the following epitaph, written by Mr. G. Colman:—

“ Bristol! to worth and genius ever just,
To thee our Powell's dear remains we trust;
Soft as the stream thy sacred springs impart,
The milk of human kindness warm'd his heart,
That heart which every tender feeling knew,
The soil where pity, love, and friendship grew.
Oh! let a faithful friend, with grief sincere,
Inscribe his tomb, and drop the heartfelt tear,
Here rest his praise, here sound his noblest fame!
—All else a bubble, or an empty name.”

Mr. Powell was an actor of considerable merit, and died at Bristol, after severe sufferings, in July, 1769,* aged thirty-three years.

In the chancel is a monument to the memory of Dr. Nathaniel Forster, a divine of great and profound learning, and author of many works of merit; particularly *Biblia Hebraica, sine Punctis*, in quarto.

In the chapel, to the west end of the southern aisle, are several monuments belonging to the Newton family; and on one of the pillars in the Elder Lady's Chapel is a device of a ram, playing on a violin with a very long bow, and a shepherd sleeping while a wolf is devouring the sheep. As this device is supposed to have been executed as early as the middle of the twelfth century, it may throw some light on the controversy respecting the use of that instrument, which some have asserted was not invented till some time in the fourteenth century.

In the north aisle wall is a knight under a singular arch, of which

* *Theatrical Dictionary*, *apud* Powell.

which there are some others about the church, called Monks' Cows. When this arch was opened, some years ago, on lifting the lid of the coffin, the body of the knight was found wrapped in a bag of horse-hair, inclosed in leather; the interstices in the coffin being filled up with earth.*

The present bishop's palace was the abbot's lodgings, repaired by Bishop Smallridge, and almost rebuilt by Bishop Butler, in the year 1744, at which time the following singular discovery was made:—A parcel of plate, supposed to have been hidden in the time of the civil wars, fell through the floor in the corner of one of the rooms. This accident occasioned the floor to be taken up, when a dungeon was discovered, in which were found many human bones, and iron instruments of torture. At the same time was laid open a private passage to this dungeon, which was part of the original edifice: it was a narrow arched way, sufficient only to admit a single person at a time, and was made within the wall. One end opened to the dungeon, and the other to the house; which it may be supposed had formerly been used as a court of judgment. Both the entrances to this passage were walled up, and so concealed as to give the whole the appearance of solid masonry. The deanry was nearly wholly rebuilt by Dr. Warburton, the postern being the dean's coach-house. This ancient monastery was changed into a cathedral, and dedicated to the "holy and undivided trinity." The foundation consisted of a bishop, dean, six prebendaries, one archdeacon, six minor canons, a deacon and sub-deacon, six lay clerks, six choristers, two grammar schoolmasters, and four alms-men, who were endowed with the site, church, and most of the lands of the monastery.† The diocese was taken out of Salisbury, part of Gloucestershire, from that of Worcester, and three churches from that of Wells. It extends over 221 churches and chapels in the county of Dorset, two parishes in the archdeaconry of Bath (which contains fifteen parishes in the liberties of Bristol) and

VOL. XIII.

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* Gough, Add. Camden, I. 125.

† Bishop Tanner's Notitia Monastica, p. 480.

seventeen other churches and chapels in the county of Gloucester, subject to the jurisdiction of the Bishop and Chancellor of Bristol, but exempted from that of the archdeaconry. The see is charged in the king's books 294l. 11s. On the twenty-third of August, 1808, the king ordered a congé d'elire to pass the great seal, empowering the dean and chapter of this cathedral to elect a new bishop, the same being void by the translation of Dr. John Luxmore to the see of Hereford. Dr. William Lort Mansell was accordingly elected bishop of this see.*

We come now to attempt some account and description of what is universally esteemed the finest parochial church in the kingdom, *St. Mary, Redcliff*.† This church, it has been observed, "is justly the pride, because it is the chief architectural beauty, of Bristol." It stands without the city walls: the ascent to it is by a noble flight of steps, and the whole building exhibits one of the most perfect specimens of ornamented Gothic architecture this country can boast.

‡ This church was built of stone, dug out of Dundry Hill quarries. It was begun in the year 1294, by Simon de Burton, mayor of Bristol, and was not completed till 1376. The steeple was partly thrown down by lightning, at St. Paul's-tide, in 1445; at which time the roof, part of the nave, and particularly the southern aisle, were much damaged. This last part was rebuilt by the grandson of William Canynge, or Canning. The spire was not rebuilt, but covered in. It is intended, however, to complete this spire, and to construct a magnificent cenotaph to the memory of the unfortunate Chatterton. The church is built in the form of a cross, having the nave raised above the aisles, in the manner of a cathedral.

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* Ecclesiastical and University Annual Register, Vol. I. p. 271.

† It is with pleasure we learn, that our predecessor in this work, John Britton, Esq. F.S.A. is collecting materials for "An Historical and Architectural Essay relating to this Church; to be illustrated with a Ground Plan, Views of the Interior and Exterior, and Details; embracing also some Account of the Monuments, and of the Eminent Persons interred within its Walls, or intimately connected with the Building."



REDCLIFF CHURCH,
Bristol.

Engraved by G. G. from a drawing by J. G. G. G.



The roof, which is nearly sixty feet high, is arched with stone, and abounds with numerous beautifully carved devices and ornaments. The whole exterior measurement, with the chapel of Our Lady, is two hundred and thirty feet in length; and the cross aisle one hundred and seventeen feet. The breadth of the nave and side aisles is fifty-nine feet, and of the cross nave and aisles forty-four feet. The height of the side aisles, from east to west, is twenty-five feet, being the height of the two cross aisles, from north to south. The height of the nave, from the western door to the high altar, is fifty-four feet, being the same as the height of the nave of the cross. Our Lady's Chapel is thirty feet long, which being divided from the church, is used as a grammar-school. The length of the present church, from the western end to the high altar, is one hundred and seventy-eight feet. The western door, which is eight feet broad and twelve high, is the principal entrance: there are also two porches on the northern and southern sides of the church. The internal appearance of the northern porch is singularly beautiful. It consists of two divisions: the lower of a highly decorated Norman style, in a very perfect state of preservation: the upper story represents tabernacles, statues, &c. with various coats of arms; among which are the crown and rose: * the whole affording, according to Mr. Dallaway, † a fine specimen of that species of minute decoration usually termed Saracenic.

On entering this beautiful church, the lightness and exquisite symmetry of the whole fill the mind with the most pleasing admiration. The best views of the inside of the church are, perhaps, at the western door, under the middle of the cross, and at the high altar. The entrance to the chancel is by gilded iron gates, richly ornamented: there are also iron gates at the western entrance of each aisle. The altar is exceedingly rich and

U u 2 superb;

* Plan, section, and views, with a minute description of this beautiful door-way, are given in Mr. Britton's Architectural Antiquities, just published.

† Observations on English Architecture, p. 10.

superb; ~~over~~ it are paintings by Hogarth and Tresham, which ~~are~~ generally admired. The altar-piece, by Hogarth, has been reckoned that inimitable artist's *chef d'œuvre*, in a style of painting for which certainly his genius was not formed;* it represents the rolling away the stone from the holy sepulchre: "the figures have energy, the colouring is clear and brilliant; the composition is judicious, and the *chiaro-oscuro* has been closely attended to." Mr. Tresham's picture of Christ raising the daughter of Jarius to life, was presented to the church by Clifton Winterbottom, Bart. the artist's uncle: it is hung in the middle of the altar, and has a good effect.

This elegant church contains several monuments: we will notice one or two of the most remarkable. In the chapel in the south cross, there are two tombs of the founder of the church, William Canning, and his wife, *Joan*. Their effigies, in full proportion, are extended on an altar-tomb, under a richly-carved canopy of free-stone, having a long inscription, setting forth, as is usual on such occasions, all, and probably more than all (for William, it seems, was very rich) the good deeds, great wealth, and many virtues of the deceased. He took priest's orders to avoid a second marriage, and became dean of Westbury, he ~~has~~, therefore, another monument, representing him in his dean's canonicals, with uplifted hands, and a large book under his head. The first-mentioned effigy describes him in his magisterial robes, having been mayor of Bristol five times.

Here is also a monument of Sir William Penn, Knt. father of the celebrated Penn, the quaker, proprietor of Pennsylvania, and founder of the city of Philadelphia. The tablet bears the following inscription:—

"Sir William Penn, Knight, born at Bristol, 1621, of the Penns of Penn's Lodge, in the county of Wilts. He was made captain at twenty-one, rear-admiral of Ireland at twenty-three, vice-admiral of England at thirty-one, and general in the first Dutch war, at thirty-two; whence returning

* This capital specimen of Hogarth's powers has never yet been published in any of the collections of that artist's works!

turning in 1655, he was chosen a parliament-man for Weymouth; 1660, was made commissioner of the admiralty and navy, governor of the forts and town of Kinsale, vice-admiral of Munster, and a member of that provincial council; and in 1664, was chosen great captain-commander under his royal highness in that signal and most evidently successful fight against the Dutch fleet. Thus he took leave of the sea, his old element; but continued his other employments till 1669, when, through bodily infirmities (contracted through the care and fatigue of public affairs) he withdrew, prepared and made for his end, and with a gentle and even gale, in much peace, arrived and anchored in his last and best port, at Waustead, in the county of Essex, sixteenth September, 1670, being then but forty nine years of age and four months. To whose name and merit his surviving lady erected this remembrance."

Though the parents of Penn, the quaker, do not either of them appear to have embraced the peculiar opinions of their son, there is a plainness and matter of fact about this inscription which savours strongly of that honest simplicity for which the *Friends* have ever been distinguished. It is known that the gallant admiral became reconciled to his son, whom he had discarded on account of his religion; and it is not improbable that he,* or his lady at least, had imperceptibly acquired some portion of the son's spirit. There is, however, one thing worthy of remark in this monumental inscription: in recording the principal events of Penn's life, it is not stated that he was sent to the Tower by Cromwell, for quitting his command, without leave.†

There are several other monuments worthy of notice; but our limits will not admit a description. We must not, however, omit to mention, that it was in the muniment room over the northern porch, that Chatterton pretended to have found those singular poems which so long duped some of the most acute critics our country can boast of, into a belief of their high anti-

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quity;

* Penn's *No Cross no Crown*, p. 473, 13th edit. 1789.

† Campbell's *Lives of the Admirals*. Thurloe's *State Papers*, IV. p. 28. In Collins's *Peerage*,* a work generally remarkable for its great accuracy,

* Vol. IX. p. 246. Supplement, 4th edit. by B. Longmate.

quity; but more of this shall be noticed in our memoir of their real author.

Temple Church was originally called *Holy Cross*, and is chiefly remarkable for its tower, which leans towards the street, like that at Bologna.* This tower is many degrees out of the perpendicular: Mr. Gough says, five or six feet; and Camden asserts, that when the bells are rung, it moves "*huc et illuc*" this way and that, displaying a chink three fingers broad, regularly opening and closing. This singular motion is thus described by Braun:†—"The church of Holy Cross has a very high and elegant tower, that I may venture to compare, in thickness and height, with that of St. Martin the Less, at Cologne. When the bells in it are ringing, it vibrates so much, that at length, by the too great and frequent shaking, it has separated from the body of the church, and opened, from the roof to the foundation, with a space four fingers breadth. Abr. Ortelius wrote me word, that he had put a stone, of the size of a goose egg, into this chink, which he actually saw descend, as the space was narrow or wide, and at last, by frequent collision, squeezed to pieces; and, when he set his back at the east tower, he was afraid it would fall on him. The mayor, and other reputable persons assured him the whole church shook, and was like to fall before this chink was made; and with such force that the lamps were put out, and the oil spilled, as many persons living could attest; but the church being no longer affected by the sound of the bells, remains unmoved." Some testamental documents have been

See also racy, there is a mistake concerning this Sir William Penn, which deserves to be noticed: It is there stated that Anthony (Lowther) of Maske, married "Margaret, daughter of Sir William Penn, of Pennsylvania, admiral to King Charles I." Now Sir William Penn, as we have seen, died in 1670, and it was not till the year 1681, that King Charles II. in consideration of sundry debts due to him from the crown, and for the services of his father, the admiral, granted to William Penn, the quaker, a province in North America, then called the New Netherlands, but, on this occasion, denominated by the king, out of respect to the grantee, *Pennsylvania*.

* Gough, Add. Cam. I. 125. † Theatrum Orbis, cited by Gough.

been found, dated 1390, and 1397, which mention the tower as rebuilding; and William of Worcester* says, it was rebuilt by the parishioners in 1460. Mr. Barrett† states, that in 1772, it leaned at the south-west corner three feet nine inches from the perpendicular; and that, on opening the ground, in 1774, thick foundations were discovered, extending from the base of the tower into the street, fifty or sixty feet. On forcing through this foundation, water gushed out, and prevented further search. It is 114 feet high, and contains a peal of eight bells. Though there is generally a little exaggeration used in describing its motion, it is true that the inclination is great, and that the vascillation, even in the belfry, is sufficient to produce an opening that will admit a thin shilling between the stones.

St. Stephen's, in Close-street, is much admired for the beauties of its ancient tower, which, Camden says, was built by Shipward, citizen and merchant, in the last age; and Leland† observes, that “Shipward, a merchant of Bristol, made the right high and costly towre of *St. Stephen*.” This is esteemed a handsome church, and was built in the reign of Henry the Sixth. The pulpit and pews are of mahogany.

All Saints' has a resemblance, in its steeple, to *St. Mary-le-Bow*, in *Cheapside*, *London*. It stands in *Corn-street*, and is an ancient structure, with a modern tower steeple, built in 1716, containing eight bells. On the top of this tower, is an octangular lanthorn and dome supported by eight arches, coupled *Corinthian columns* at each angle; and crowned with a gilded ball and cross. There are three aisles, the two side ones being somewhat shorter than the middle one, which is seventy feet long, and forty-nine high. The whole is sixty feet wide. The altar-piece has a painting of the *Salutation of the Blessed Virgin*. Here are several monuments, the most interesting of which is that to the memory of *Edward Colston, Esq.* The effigy is a recumbent marble figure, by *John Michael Rysbraeck*; over it is an inscription, recording the virtues of the deceased.

^a Itinerarium, p. 258. † Hist. Brit. p. 542-544. ‡ Vol. VII. 71. b.

deceased, by enumerating most of the principal public benefactions for which Mr. Colston was so long and so eminently known.* He was born in Temple parish, the second of November, 1636, and was brought up to trade under his father, an eminent Spanish merchant, usually styled Deputy Colston,† to whose memory there is also a monument, erected by their son, in this church. He resided some time in Spain, as did also his brothers, where two of them were murdered. There is a tradition, says the *Biographia Britannica*, that when Mr. Colston and his brothers were in Spain, in their disputes with the papists, it was often objected to them, that the reformed religion produced no examples of great and charitable benefactions; to which they were wont to reply, that if it pleased God to bring them safe home, they would wipe off that aspersion. Upon which two of them were poisoned, to prevent their return; but their elder brother, Edward, escaped. It is more certain, however, that one, or both of them, were assassinated by banditti, very common in Spain and Portugal. Whatever were the motives that first urged Mr. Colston to those great, and almost incredible, charities, which he performed, it is certain that they were of an extent, and many of them of a nature, that in other times would have given him a distinguished name in the calendar, and have rendered the place of his interment the resort of the faithful, and the admiration of the multitude. Mr. Colston died on the anniversary of his birth-day, in 1721: a sermon is annually preached in honour of his memory.

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* "To do justice to his character, would oblige one to enumerate almost every kind of charity, whereby we can promote the glory of God, or relieve the necessities of our fellow-creatures. Scarcely any sort of temporal calamity escaped his charitable assistance; nor is there scarcely one spiritual want, towards the removing of which he did not piously and freely afford his contribution. From his bountiful benefactions, the ignorance of the young, the miseries of the infirm, and the helpless necessities of the old, are removed, eased, and relieved." Dr. Harcourt's Funeral Sermon for Mr. Colston.

† *Biogr. Brit.* IV. 43.

In the centre of the city stands *Christ Church*, near the site of a very old church, as appears from the circumstance of dates having been found so early as 1008, or 1004. A discovery of this kind was made in the year 1765, when part of the old spire was taken down. The dates were of lead, let into the stone, near the top. The old structure was taken down, in 1786, in order to widen Wine-street. The present church was opened in 1790. It is built of free-stone, and consists of a handsome tower on the stage, above the church, with sixteen Ionic pilasters supporting four pediments. The stage above this, containing ten bells, has, on each side, four Corinthian pilasters, and at each corner of the tower a large vase. On the top is an obelisk of seventy feet, on which are elevated a ball and gilded dragon. The entire height of the steeple is 160 feet. The following punning epitaph was on a stone, in the old church:—

“ Here lieth *THO. TURAR*, and *MARY*, his wife: he was twice master of the company of bakers, and twice churchwarden of this parish. He died March 6th, 1654. She died May 8th, 1648.

Like to the *baker's oven*, is the grave,
Wherein the bodies of the faithful have
A *sitting-in*, and where they do remain,
In hopes to rise, and to be *drawn* again:
Blessed are they, who in the Lord are dead,
Though set like *dough*, they shall be drawn like *bread*.”

St. Mark's Church, on College Green, is usually called the *Mayor's Chapel*, because the corporation, whose property the curacy is, usually attend divine worship there. It is a very light building, but disproportioned: the height and length being much greater than the breadth. It stands rather north and south. The tower is ninety-one feet high, and has four pinnacles. It has a curious aisle, and beautiful vestry, supporting the founder's vault, wherein was formerly a confessionary, with two arches in the wall, and eight niches.* It was founded about 1230, and has several monuments. The altar-piece is by Hogarth,

* Gough, Add. Cam. IV. p. 125.

Hogarth, and cost 500*l*. It belonged originally to the hospital of Bonhommes, which was founded in 1229 by Maurice Gaunt, for a chaplain and 100 poor. The nephew of the founder added a master and three chaplains, and it was valued at 112*l*. per annum.* It was refounded, in 1598, by the corporation, for a school and orphan house for boys, and was then called Queen Elizabeth's Hospital. It was rebuilt in 1702; in 1763 the boys were removed to St. Bartholomew's; but the estates remained as they were.†

St. Paul's Church is a new stone building, in the ancient style. It was opened on St. Paul's Day, 1794. The tower gives it somewhat of a resemblance to the steeple of the Royal Exchange, London, and is 169 feet high. In the last year (1810) a monument was erected in this church, to the memory of Colonel Vassal. His remains were brought hither from South America. It is the production of *Rossi*, from a design by *Flaxman*, and is a chaste, classical, and elegant piece of sculpture, very affecting and impressive, relates the heroic tale in a striking manner, and accords with some of the finest specimens of Grecian sculpture.

St. Peter's is a very ancient structure, having been mentioned as early as 1130. It has now lost much of its antique appearance, by being often repaired, particularly in the year 1795. It is chiefly remarkable as the burying-place of the unfortunate and licentious *Savage* the poet, who was confined at Bristol for a trifling debt, died in prison, and was buried at the expence of the gaoler. His poem, entitled "London and Bristol delineated," as it does not make the most honourable mention of this, the last scene of his sorrows, has given offence to the Bristol authors. Surely, however, his birth, talents, and misfortunes, for certainly he was an injured man, might at least have saved his name from being forgotten, and his memory from insult; but "not a stone tells where he lies."‡

This

* Tanner's Not. Mon. p. 482.

† Barrett, p. 579.

‡ Juvenile Tourist, by the Rev. J. Evans, M. A. 3d ed. 292. "The poor

This city has many other churches, besides five chapels of ease; but having noticed the most remarkable, we pass on to a brief description of some of the principal places of worship belonging to the different sects of religion, dissenting from the established church.

If multiplicity of sects, or variety of religious opinion, were really an evil, as the Roman Catholics, and some protestants, possessing the spirit of popery, in its worst times, would gladly persuade the world, then indeed Bristol holds out but few temptations to men of serious and well disposed minds: for there is scarcely a denomination of modern christians, that has not one or more places of meeting in this city: yet we know not that the evil genius of intolerance holds any very distinguished seat here, or that the *odium theologicum* is more evident in Bristol, than in places where greater uniformity of religious faith and worship is to be found; on the contrary, we are persuaded, that few large towns can boast more instances of liberal intercourse among people of opposite sentiments, or more of that genuine candour and good will, which the mild tenour of christianity is so eminently calculated to produce.

The *Presbyterian Chapel*, in *Lewins-Mead-street*, is a large and substantial building, with a front of free-stone. The galleries are three in number, and are ascended by two geometrical stair-cases, rising from the wings of the building. On all accounts, this is esteemed the most complete chapel in Bristol.

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poor man who sunk to his grave neglected, a Chatterton, a Boyse, or a Smoag, will have no advocates, but what are such from conviction."—"If the painful conviction is forced upon us in the case of *Boyse* and *Smoag*, that their dispositions were so disorderly as to make it difficult, almost impossible to serve them, let it be remembered that they offend no man now, that their irregularities cannot now disturb any man's peace; let us weep over their follies, draw instruction from their examples, and meditate with sadness, upon that species of genius and intellectual power (rare, I hope, in its occurrence) which can be associated with incorrigible weakness, and bear within it the tint of utter inutility to its possessor, and its connections." *Essay on Sepulchres, or a Proposal for erecting some Memorial of the illustrious Dead, in all Ages, on the spot where their remains have been interred.* By William Godwin, pp. 103-105.

The congregation is of the most reputable kind, and supports two ministers: at present the Rev. Dr. Estlin and the Rev. John Rowe, who both maintain the *Unitarian* doctrine.

Bridge-street Chapel is built in an ancient style, and has also a free-stone front. It belongs to the *Independents*, and is a handsomè building. This denomination has two or three other good meeting-houses; particularly one at *Castle Green*, and another in *Temple Street*.

The *Baptists* have meeting-houses here, particularly the *Broad Mead*, or *Hay-market*, and the *Pithey*. Both these chapels are good buildings, and are very respectably attended.

The *Friends* have two places: one in *Quakers' Friars, Rosemary Street*, a large and elegant chapel, and another in *Temple Street*, also a good structure. The quakers are very numerous in this city.

The *Whitfieldian* and *Wesleyan Methodists* have several chapels, and are exceedingly numerous. The *Tabernacle*, in *Penn Street*, *Old Orchard*, belongs to the former; the *Wesleyans* have *Broad Mead*, or *Wesley's Room*, *Old King Street*, a new and excellent edifice; *Guinea Street*, *Portland Street*, which has a painted altar-piece, a turret, and a bell, and where the service of the church of England, as mutilated by Mr. Wesley, is read by the lay-preachers; and *George Street*, originally built by a Mr. Dolman, who preached in it himself, but afterwards was ordained, and died in London.

Lady Huntingdon's connection have two chapels, *St. Augustine's Place*, and *Hope Chapel, Albermarle Row*,* founded by the Countess of Glenorchy and Lady Hope, who have marble monuments erected to their memory in it. In these chapels the service is much the same as that of the church of England, with such curtailments and additions as accord with the peculiar views of the sect.

The modest and inoffensive *Moravians*, or *United Brethren*,
have

* Strictly speaking, this chapel does not belong to her ladyship's connection, but the difference is so slight, that we knew not how otherwise to distinguish it.

have their chapel in *Upper Maudlin Lane*. Here is a good organ.*

The old Roman Catholic Chapel, at *St. James's Back*, having been much enlarged and improved, with the addition of a gallery and organ, is now occupied by the believers in the doctrines of that most extraordinary character, Baron *Swedenborg*: it is now called the *New Jerusalem Church*.

Orchard Street Chapel is appropriated to the *French Protestants*; and there is a new Roman Catholic chapel in *Trenchard Lane*, towards the building of which, it is said, both protestants of the establishment, and even dissenters, contributed: a proof that the time is now fully come, when no distinction of doctrine or mode of worship whatever should be allowed to debar any peaceable person from the full and entire enjoyment of the civil and religious rights of a free citizen.

The *Jews' Synagogue*, in *Temple Street*, though small, is beautiful, and is fitted up with all that splendour for which the Mosaic ritual is conspicuous.

These are among the most important houses of dissenting worship; but Bristol also has some places of minor consequence appropriated to the different bands of sectarists, who are frequently branching out from the larger bodies, displaying, in varied ramifications, the almost endless versatility of the human mind, and demonstrating the absurdity of coercion in the promulgation of truth or the unity of opinion.

THE CHARITABLE FOUNDATIONS and PUBLIC SCHOOLS of Bristol are very numerous. We can barely mention the most eminent, and a few recent ones.

St. Peter's Hospital is for the reception of the poor citizens in general, including superannuated persons, orphans, and idiots. It is an ancient and good building; and the establishment

* See a very interesting account of this sect, in a novel entitled "*Wanley Person*," by Mr. Sadler, of Chippenham. We regret that the ingenious author should suffer this excellent publication to be out of print.

ment is supported by annual assessments on the several parishes. It is generally called *the Mint*, because it was once used for the coinage of money. The *Infirmary* is a most extensive and increasing establishment. In 1805, Mr. Reynolds, late of Colebrook Dale, made a most benevolent offer of 500*l.* towards opening a new ward in this infirmary, on condition of its being completely fitted for opening in the course of the year. This offer was accepted by the trustees ; at the same time subscriptions were opened to defray the expence of a new wing to the building. The conditions entered into with Mr. Reynolds were soon completed, and the subscriptions for the new wing and other improvements went on ; when, on the thirty-first of October, in the same year, a building committee was formed, and on the sixteenth of June, 1806, the first stone was laid by Edward Pretheroe, Esq. with due solemnity, in the presence of a very respectable concourse of people. It is now the principal infirmary for the west of England. There is an *Asylum for Orphan Girls*, at *Hook's Mills*. *Merchants' Hospital* is for nineteen seamen, and twelve seamen's widows: each receives three shillings weekly; the elder brother five. This building was finished about the year 1698. The principal *Alms-houses* are *Colston's*, built in 1691, *St. Nicholas's*, *Forster's*, *Alderman Stephens's*, *Strange's*, *All Saints*, *Presbyterian*, *Spencer's*, and *Redcliffe Hill*. Besides these, there are nearly twenty *hospitals* and *poor-houses*, supporting altogether about 2000 poor and distressed persons. Every year produces some attempts still farther to relieve the wants, and ameliorate the condition of the unfortunate and wretched. The *Bristol Blind Asylum*, a most benevolent institution, is very liberally supported. The blind pupils are employed in various branches of manufacture, and have produced many useful, and even excellent articles.

A *Lancasterian School*, a species of benevolence that bids fair to produce more permanent and extensive benefits to society than any other institution the world can boast, was opened at *Bristol*, in 1806, and is in a flourishing state. *The Samaritan Society*

Society was established in 1807, to relieve patients dismissed from public institutions under peculiarly distressed circumstances, especially females, for a short period, or until their health be restored, or able to resume their avocations; to relieve, by visitors, during sickness or severe distress, and at their own dwellings, such poor as cannot obtain relief under the existing rules of other charities, and to assist such persons in obtaining parochial relief who belong to distant parishes. The *Grateful Society* is an establishment of several years' standing, and has put out apprentice nearly 200 boys, with ten pounds each, and relieved upwards of 3,500 lying-in women. The *Anchor Society* is of a similar description. In mentioning the benevolent institutions of this place, it would be unpardonable to omit some notice of Dr. Fox's *Asylum for Lunatics*, at Brislington, near Bristol; for, though it is not strictly what we usually call a charitable foundation, it has for its object the greatest of all charities—the restoration to themselves and to society of such of our unhappy fellow-creatures whom the decrees of an inscrutable Providence have deprived of that which, in many respects, alone distinguishes man from the “beasts that perish.” Dr. Fox's Asylum is of a singular and extensive nature; and he has so organized it, that the patients enjoy, as much as their situation will admit, all the benefits and comforts of civilized and rational society. The poor are employed in various branches of domestic labour; and the better sort have engagements suitable to their former pursuits, and every possible indulgence is allowed them. To effect the purposes of this establishment, a little village has been erected, connected by inclosures with the doctor's residence, where each separate class of mankind, from the prince to the labourer, may enjoy every possible comfort his case can allow; yet the whole is so contrived, that every patient is secure from doing injury either to himself or his fellows. We cannot give a detailed account of this institution; but the reader will find a very ample one, by Mr. Cumberland, of Bristol, drawn up with

with much judgment and taste, in the first volume of the County Annual Register, published in 1810.

Bristol has, of late years, given more encouragement than formerly to LITERARY and SCIENTIFIC INSTITUTIONS ; it must, however, be confessed, that in this respect it is much inferior to some other provincial towns, especially to Liverpool and Manchester. The *City Library*, in King Street, a handsome stone building, has a good and increasing collection of books : there is a librarian and a sub-librarian. The late Rev. Mr. Catcott, vicar of Temple, bequeathed his museum, containing minerals, fossils, and other natural curiosities, together with a number of valuable books, to this library, when a new wing was added to the building. The admission and annual subscriptions are much too low. The *City Grammar-School*, for the instruction of the sons of citizens in Latin and Greek, supports two masters. The endowed *College Grammar-School*, in Lower College Green, was founded by Henry the Eighth, at the time Bristol was raised to an episcopal see. *Queen Elizabeth's Grammar-School* has a statue of the royal donor in the school-house. There are ten or twelve other *public schools*, or charitable foundations. The *Baptist Education Society*, where young men are educated for the ministry, deserves notice. It is a valuable institution, and has been enriched by several legacies, particularly by the library of Dr. Llewellyn, and that of Dr. Andrew Gifford, a learned minister of that persuasion, and an intelligent antiquary. He was many years assistant librarian at the British Museum, and died in 1784. The museum belonging to this institution contains some excellent natural and artificial curiosities, particularly a collection of Hindoo images, formerly objects of divine adoration. This is a long room over the library, which has a beautifully painted window, representing several subjects of sacred history. A new building, for the use of this society, has recently been begun, and is now carrying on. It promises to be a handsome and substantial structure.

It is proper, in this place, to take some notice of *Kingswood*,
especially

especially as no mention was made of it when delineating the county of Gloucester.* *Kingswood Forest*, containing about 6000 acres, is in the lower part of the vale district of Gloucestershire.† It has long been celebrated for its extensive collieries, but perhaps still more for the uncivilized state of the colliers; and the influence of methodism on their morals.‡ It is about three miles from Bristol; and we mention it in connection with this city, on account of the celebrated *school* established there by the Wesleyan methodists. This institution was founded by the late Rev. J. Wesley, in 1748, who designed it as a school for the children of his societies in general. In some years, however, the place was found too small to answer the full extent of the founder's wishes, and it became accessible only to the sons of preachers; that is, of those preachers who are wholly supported by the society. The "local preachers," who are such as follow trades, and have no pecuniary reward for their labours, have no interest in this foundation. The children are initiated into the various branches of education taught in other similar establishments. Pupils are admitted from the age of eight years, and are continued on the foundation till they are fourteen.§ It is singular to remark, that among their school exercises they are taught to translate John Bunyan, and read Shakespeare. The discipline of this school has been often; and justly, censured, as much too severe; and indeed it is notorious, that comparatively few of the children educated here afterwards join, or continue in, the society of methodists; and that very few of them become preachers. One of Mr. Wesley's rules of discipline enjoins, "that the children must never play; and that a master must always be with them."

"Instead of play," says one of their own writers, "Mr. Wesley

VOL. XIII.

X x

wished

* Vide *Beauties*, Vol. V.

† Rudge's *Agricultural Survey*, p. 22.

‡ *Portraiture of Methodism*, p. 128.

§ By an order of Conference, in 1808, it was settled, that in some cases a boy may be allowed to continue at school a year longer. *Minutes of Conference*, 1808.

wished them to learn husbandry, or some mechanic art."* The school-house is large, and the whole establishment, entirely supported by annual subscriptions throughout the united kingdom.

The PUBLIC BUILDINGS devoted to the administration of justice and to commercial purposes, and the institutions connected therewith, are numerous and important. The *Guildhall* is an old curious structure, standing in Broad Street. It is a large and lofty building, with a modern front, bearing the arms of Edward the First, and a royal statue. Here the mayor is chosen, and other city and county business transacted. The *Council House* is a stone building, erected in Corn Street, in the year 1703; but it is much too small for the purposes for which it was built. The mayor and aldermen sit here daily to administer justice. The council chambers contain some pictures, among which is a portrait of the Earl of Pembroke, a whole length, by Vandyke, a present to the city; and another of Lord Clare: both very good paintings. Here are several public offices connected with the city. The *Custom House* is a good building of brick, with a colonade of freestone pillars, having Ionic capitals in front: the room in which business is conducted is about seventy feet in length. The *Excise Office* is also a brick building, near the Custom House, in Queen Square. The *Post Office* is of freestone, near the *Exchange*; and is a very large, elegant and good structure: it was built by that ingenious architect, Mr. Wood, of Bath, and is said to have cost 50,000*l*. It was opened for public business in the year 1743; and measures 110 feet in front, and 148 in depth. The north, or principal front, has a bold and stately tetrastyle, the columns having Corinthian capitals, supporting a pediment, and on the tympan of which are his majesty's arms, carved in stone. The entire front of the building, between the capitals of the pilasters

* It would be a curious fact to ascertain, how far this regulation goes to verify the nursery adage, that "all work and no play makes Jack a dull boy."

ters and of the columns, is richly ornamented with emblematical festoons, representing various productions of Great Britain and the four quarters of the world. This front is on a strong rustic basement. The southern view of the building consists of a rustic arcade, having also a central projection supporting the city arms. Here is a turret with a clock, with two dials facing opposite directions. The merchants transact their business within a very extensive range of columns of the Corinthian order, forming a peristyle capable of containing upwards of 1400 persons. It was opened for business* on the twenty-first of September, 1743, having been rather more than two years in building. It was repaired internally in 1796.

The *Merchants' Hall* is a modern freestone building, erected in 1701; but has within these few years been almost rebuilt, with very great improvements. The principal door, which is ascended by a flight of steps, is ornamented on each side with the merchants' arms, carved in stone. Over this door is a good bust of his present majesty; and on the top of the building are a globe and armillary sphere. The principal room, on the north side of the saloon, contains some portraits; one of which is of the late Edward Colston, Esq. a half-length, by Richardson; and from this painting Rysbreack is said to have taken the model for the statue already mentioned, in the church of All-Saints. *Merchant Tailors' Hall* is a freestone building, seventy feet in length. It has an orchestra, and is often let out for public entertainments.

Under *St. John's Gate*, at the bottom of Small Street, the corporation have, not long ago, erected a capacious arch, for the accommodation of foot passengers. The statues on the southern side have already been mentioned.

Temple Gate has very recently been taken down.

Newgate is the city prison for felons and debtors. By some late

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improvements,

* It is remarkable, that notwithstanding the Bristol merchants have such an excellent place for meeting, they seldom go into it; but assemble outside, near some ancient brass pillars, or tables, which were placed there before the present elegant building was erected.

improvements, this prison is made comfortable and convenient. *Bridewell* is the prison for the confinement and correction of offenders; and there is another prison, called *Lawford's Gate*, Bridewell Street, for the reception of those who have been guilty of misdemeanors without the liberties of the city, and in the county of Gloucester.

The PUBLIC STATUES of Bristol are not very numerous. In Queen's Square, is an equestrian statue of *William the Third*. This is said to be one of the finest pieces of sculpture of the kind in the kingdom, and is the production of Rysbreack. A very fine statue of his present majesty was completed last year, in the centre of Portland Square, in commemoration of his having attained his fiftieth year. The first stone was laid on the twenty-fifth of October, 1809. On the front of the pedestal, is the following inscription:—

“ George III. the Father of his People, having on the 25th October 1809, through the favour of Divine Providence, attained the 50th year of his reign, to commemorate that happy event, and in testimony of their gratitude for the blessings enjoyed under the mild government of the best of kings, the loyal inhabitants of St. Paul's parish erected this statue, A. D. 1810.”

The *High Cross*, which formerly stood at the confluence of the four principal streets, having been removed, not much to the credit of the citizens, to the gardens of Mr. Hoare at Stourhead, in Wiltshire, a descriptive and historical sketch of it shall be given in our account of that interesting county. In the mean time, we refer the reader to Part I. Vol. I. of Mr. Britton's *Architectural Antiquities of Great Britain*.

As nothing now remains of the *castle*, and but very little, if any, of the *outworks*, a minute description is difficult and useless. According to a sketch by Mr. Turnor,* the outworks, in 1644, began at Water-fort, in Lime-kiln Lane; from whence, to Brandon Hill, they lately were plainly discernible. Thence, proceeding in a northerly direction, to Prior's Hill, at the end of Somerset Street. The line then went, south-easterly,

to

* *Archæologia*, Vol. XIV. Pl. XXXV. p. 130.

to Lawford's Gate, near the castle, being intersected by the Froom, in its direction. The works then proceeded to the Avon, opposite Tower Harratz, and from thence to Temple Gate, ending a little beyond Redcliffe Gate, at the Avon. This line was four miles in circumference. The forts were, a little above Limekiln Lane, Brandon Hill, Royal Fort, near St. Michael's Hill, Ridout, or Colston's Fort, at Horsfield Lane, and Prior's Fort, near the north end of St. James's Place. Such was the state of the fortifications during the siege, while Prince Rupert was governor of the castle, as already mentioned.

The castle itself, exclusive of the outworks, was 540 feet, from east to west, and 300 from north to south. The principal building occupied an area of nearly four acres, exclusive of houses, barracks, gardens, courts, yards, and several other accommodations for the officers and the garrison. The remains of these extensive buildings are now almost entirely lost. On the eastern side, in Tower Street, still exist some arches, with ribbed roofs of stone, which are thought to have formed some portion of a porch to a church, or magnificent hall.

The QUAY and HARBOUR of Bristol, are objects of great interest to the inhabitants, as well as to foreign commerce. *Bristol Bridge* is an elegant structure of three arches, with a balustrade on each side of Portland Stone, about seven feet high, with raised foot-paths chained in. The centre arch is an elliptic of fifty feet span; the side arches are semi-circular, and of forty feet each; the piers are forty-two feet long, and ten thick. This bridge was built, or rather re-built, in 1768. At each end are two small houses, a kind of domes, where the toll-gatherers formerly resided; but the toll has been many years discontinued, and these houses converted into small shops.

About ten years ago, a plan was suggested for the improvement of the harbour, for erecting iron bridges across the Avon, and forming a New Cut. In 1804, this scheme was matured: the *Bristol Dock Company* advertised for six or eight hundred la-

bourers, to cut the new docks and canal. The expences, in a very short time, amounted to 93,249l.; the monies received were 94,218l. and the works proceeded with rapidity. Early in 1805, the foundation of the iron bridge was laid, and a sum of 500,000l. expended. Unfortunately, in January, 1806, the ribs of the iron-work gave way, after considerable advances towards its completion had been made, but they were soon repaired; and in 1809 the docks were completed, and now form the most extensive works of the kind in Europe, the float being two miles and a half in length, and covering eighty-two acres of ground. At all hours of the day, ships can now pass from the Dun-head to the quays of the city, and discharge their cargoes into warehouses, while afloat. The swamps near the works, which were at first so offensive, are now filled up, in a judicious and uniform manner. The iron bridge, which extends from Clifton Down, near the old windmill, to Leigh Down, has an arch of about 200 feet in height, and will admit ships of any magnitude to sail underneath, full rigged.

The unbounded spirit of commercial enterprize by which the merchants of Bristol are actuated, has lately rendered itself singularly conspicuous. Neither the restraints which the belligerent powers of Europe have laid upon every branch of commerce, and which have affected the city and port of Bristol in a strong manner, nor the almost incredible expence to which the Bristol merchants and gentry have lately gone into, in the improvement of the harbour, could prevent their listening with attention to a plan, suggested within this year or two, to erect in the city, a large and commodious *Commercial coffee-room*. For this purpose, a subscription, amounting to 10,000l. was soon filled up; and on the nineteenth of March, 1810, was laid the first stone, with the customary honours, by George Dyer, Esq. in the presence of an immense concourse of spectators. The architect is C. A. Busby, of London, Esq. This beautiful building stands in Corn-street. It has a free-stone front, in the centre of which, according to the plan originally laid down, it has a beautiful

tial portico, of the Ionic order; the acrota of the pediment surmounted by a statue representing the city of Bristol, and having on the right and left emblematical figures of Navigation and Commerce; and over the entrance doors a basso-relievo, describing Neptune introducing the four quarters of the world to Britannia. Should this building be completed, internally and externally, agreeably to the plans of the committee, it will be a valuable acquisition to the inhabitants in general, while to the merchants it will afford, like Lloyd's of London, a centre of communication and intercourse, uniting every purpose of a pleasant coffee-room, and a place of business.

In addition to these improvements, of a commercial kind, should be mentioned the intended new canal from Bristol, to join the Wiltshire and Berkshire canal, at or near Foxham. By this communication, a regular and safe navigation will be opened, by means of the Wiltshire and Berkshire, the intended western junction, and the grand junction canals, to and from the ports of London and Bristol, and all towns and places contiguous to, or communicating with, these canals. The sum of 400,000*l.* which was originally proposed to carry this plan into execution, has been already subscribed.

All these plans and improvements will suggest some faint idea of the commercial importance of the city of Bristol. The opulence of the merchants puts them on an equality with any traders in Europe. In beholding this large city at some distance, the mind is immediately filled with the idea of the inhabitants being totally occupied in trade and commerce. From twenty to thirty sugar-houses, and abundance of sulphur, turpentine, vitriol, and coal-works; brass and iron founderies, distilleries, glass-houses, and manufactories of woollen stuffs, and china, are constantly at work. The foreign trade, in times of peace, is immense: it is carried on to every part of the known world. All persons are free to trade here, and the freedom of the city, the want of which is the curse and the disgrace of a free country, may be purchased at a very moderate rate. The trade of this port is chiefly with Ireland, the West Indies, and North America,

Hamburgh, and the Baltic. The Guinea trade, and the disgrace attached to it, had been for the most part transferred to Liverpool, some time before the wisdom, humanity, and consistency of an enlightened administration for ever abolished it. By the navigation of the two rivers, Severn and Wye, Bristol also engrosses most of the trade to Wales; and the connection of this port with that of Liverpool, gives it a considerable interest in the commerce of that opulent and flourishing town. Besides those ships which arrive here from various parts of the world to dispose of their cargoes or get freight, there are generally about 300 sail employed in foreign trade belonging to Bristol, exclusive of coasting vessels, large troughs, market-sloops, and other craft, which are extremely numerous. The annual amount of customs exceeds 300,000*l.* and the excise to more than 100,000*l.* The post-office revenue is above 15,000*l.* and the land-tax 8000*l.*

“ Majestic Bristol! to thy happy port
Prolific commerce makes its lov'd resort.
Thy gallant ships, with spacious sails unfurl'd,
Waft to thy shore the treasures of the world.”*

Here are thirteen *city companies*, some of whom have halls; particularly Merchants' Hall, already noticed, and Cooper's Hall, in King Street. The *Fairs* are two, and the public markets ten. Coals are uncommonly plentiful and cheap, there being pits of great extent within a very short distance from the town; Kingswood furnishing the largest supply. Water is also very plentiful, the inhabitants being supplied from pumps and conduits in almost every street.

The corporation, at present, consists of a mayor, a recorder,† a lord high steward, eleven aldermen, two sheriffs, forty-eight common

* Thorn's *Bristolia*, a poem.

† Sir Vicary Gibbs, the attorney-general, at this time, fills that high office. For a curious account of his reception, in 1810, by some of the Bristolians, not over delicate in the mode of expressing their dislikes, see the *County Annual Register*, Vol. II. Part iv. p. 161.

common council-men, a town clerk, a chamberlain, vice-chamberlain, sword-bearer, and under sheriff. The mayor is allowed from the city chamber 1000*l.* and the two sheriffs 420*l.* each. The borough of Bristol sends two members to parliament; the right of election lying in the freemen of forty shillings a year, and the free burgesses. The whole number of voters may amount to about 7500. The two sheriffs are the returning officers.

There is a sort of balance of political influence here. The whig club possesses the means of securing a member of their own choice, and the tory club readily returns one to support their interests. Thus the *harmony* of the town is compromised, and all parties satisfied, that they have got at least one such man for their representative, as will not fail to watch over their liberties and preserve their privileges from violation. The present members are, the Right Honourable Charles Bragge Bathurst, and Evan Baillie, Esq. There is a fact connected with the parliamentary representation of this city which should not be overlooked: the freemen are those who are free by birth, freehold, servitude, purchase, donation, or those who obtain their freedom *by marrying a freeman's daughter*. This last singular privilege, it is said, was granted by Queen Elizabeth, as an encouragement to matrimony; yet it is well known, that this greatest of British princes had herself somewhat of an aversion to the marriage state.

On the fifteenth of September, 1662, the title of Earl of Bristol was conferred on John, Lord Digby, of Sherbourne, by James the First, in recompence for his services in frequent foreign embassies.* This title expired on the death of the third earl, in 1698; but was revived in the person of John, Lord Hervey,† of Ickworth,

* Collins's Peerage, Vol. VIII. p. 451.

† "As for titles of honour," says Sarah, Duchess of Marlborough, "I never was concerned in making any peer but one, and that was my Lord Hervey, the present Earl of Bristol. I had made a promise to Sir Thomas Felton, when the queen first came to the crown, that if her majesty should
ever

ickworth, in the county of Suffolk,* in which family it remains to this time. The present earl is the Right Honourable Frederick William Hervey; his father, the late earl, was also Bishop of Derry.

The general appearance of the city is not prepossessing. Many of the houses afford curious specimens of ancient domestic architecture, having their gable-ends projecting; mostly wood, or lath and plaster. The city is, however, gradually improving; many new streets of modern elegance having been formed, and the old houses as they fall to ruins, are replaced by good and comfortable buildings.

The places of *Public Amusement* within the city are, principally, the *Theatre Royal*, in King Street, a model of elegance and convenience; which that most inimitable actor and great scholar, the late Mr. Garrick, is said to have pronounced to be the most complete theatre, of the same dimensions, in Europe; yet he saw it before it was quite finished: it was opened in May, 1766; and the *Assembly Room*, in Princes Street, a good building, with a freestone front on a rustic basement, which supports four double Corinthian columns, and a pediment; on the frieze is inscribed *Curas Cithara tollit*. The assemblies are conducted by a committee, consisting of some of the principal gentlemen of the city; and there is a regular master of the ceremonies.

CLIFTON and the HOTWELLS, have already been noticed;† we shall, nevertheless, make some farther mention of them in this place.

One

ever make any new lords, I would certainly use my interest that Mr. Hervey should be one. And accordingly, though I was retired into the country, under the most sensible affliction for the death of my only son, yet when the queen had resolved to make four peers, I had such a regard to my word, that I wrote to Lord Marlborough and Lord Godolphin, that if they did not endeavour to get Mr. Hervey made a peer, I neither would, nor could, shew my face any more."

* Collins, IX. 427.

† Beauties, Vol. V. p. 731. et seq.

One of the sublimest and most beautiful scenes in nature is exhibited by those bold and rugged eminences behind the *Crescent*, known by the name of ST. VINCENT'S ROCKS, which appear to have been rent asunder by some violent convulsion of nature.* They are mis-shapen and massy projections, nearly 300 feet in height. Pieces of this rock, when broken, have much the appearance of a dark red marble; and when struck by a substance of corresponding hardness, emit a strong sulphureous smell. It is sometimes used as a substitute for foreign marble for chimney-pieces; but principally for making lime. In the fissures of these rocks are found those fine crystals usually called Bristol-stones, which are so hard as to cut glass and sustain the action of fire and of *aqua fortis*: this, however, is only the case with such as are tinged with colour. The imperfect ones, in which there appear something like small hairs, white specks, or bubbles of air or water, turn white when calcined.*

How beauteous the pale rocks above the shore
 Uplift their bleak and furrow'd aspect high!
 How proudly desolate their foreheads, hoar,
 That meet the earliest sun-beam of the sky!

Bound to yon dusky mart, with pennants gay,
 The tall bark on the winding waters line,
 Between the riven cliffs plies her hard way,
 And peering on the sight the white sails shine.

REV. W. L. BOWLES.

The village of CLIFTON has of late undergone part of that improvement which it had so long wanted, and which the romantic scenery of its neighbourhood imperiously demanded. The building of the *Upper Crescents* is by this time nearly, if not wholly completed; the terrace of the largest will not be rivalled by any street in England. Besides these buildings, others are going on upon the Downs, and more are projected,

so

* History and Beauties of Clifton Hot-Wells, by G. W. Manby, Esq. p. 31.

† The Harleian Mis. Vol. IV. p. 110, 8vo. edit.

so that Clifton bids fair very shortly to have the appearance of a new city.

The BIOGRAPHY of Bristol is of the most interesting kind, and would furnish valuable materials for volumes: one or two instances have already been noticed.

WILLIAM GROCYNÉ, Greek professor at Oxford, the intimate friend of Erasmus, and godfather to Lilly the grammarian, was born here in 1442. He wrote a Latin epistle to Aldus Manutius, which is prefixed to Linacre's translation of Proclus de Sphæra. He died at Maidstone, in 1522, aged 80.*

WILLIAM BOTONER, usually denominated William of Worcester, was a native of this place. His father was a glover, on St. James's Back. William was secretary, pursuivant, executor, and biographer to Sir John Fastolf. He was the first that translated any of Cicero's works into English, which was the Discourse on old age. He was educated at Hart Hall, in 1734, and drew up a work, entitled "*Polyandria Oxoniensis*," from which Anthony à Wood seems to have taken the idea of his celebrated book on the learned men at Oxford. He was also author of "*Itinerarium, sive liber, memorabilium in viaggia de Bristol, usque ad montem S. Michaelis, in anno 1478.*" This work is not, however, confined to the remarkable things of Bristol. Browne Willis† published Botoner's measurements of almost all the churches in England; those relative to the length of the streets, &c. of Bristol were collected from the original MSS. lying in the library of Benet College, Cambridge, and published in 1778, by Mr. Nasmith, in his valuable collection of MSS. in the same college.‡

Sir WILLIAM DRAPER, well known for his controversy with Junius in defence of the Marquis of Granby, was the son of a custom-house officer here. In 1763, in conjunction with Admiral Cornish, he took Manila, and was created knight of the bath. In

* Wood's Athen. Oxon.

† Hist. Mit. Abbles.

‡ Gough's British Topography, Vol. I. pp. 20, 21. Vol. II. 107. Barrett's Bristol, 625.

In 1779, he was appointed lieutenant-governor of Minorca; and when that place surrendered to the enemy, he brought a false accusation against General Murray, for which he was commanded by the court martial to make an apology. He lived some years at Clifton, and died at Bath, in 1787.*

THOMAS CHATTERTON, the unfortunate poet, was a native of this city. He was born the twentieth of November, 1752, in File Street. The events of this youth's life are well known. At a very early age he was returned from school, with an observation that he was too dull to learn! In 1760, he was admitted into Colston's charity school. In 1767, he finally left school, and was put to Mr. Lambert, an attorney. Here he indulged himself in writing verses, and other literary speculations. Indeed, some years before this time, he is reported to have written many good poems, and specimens have been published of lines written when he was only eleven years old, particularly a hymn for Christmas Day, which, for just harmony and ease of expression, is much superior to the majority of pieces usually published under the title of Hymns for Public Worship. At a very early period, he had acquired an enthusiastic admiration of antiquarian and heraldic researches. In 1768, being then only fifteen years of age, he published in Farley's Bristol Journal, a "Description of the Fryars passing over the Old Bridge, taken from an ancient manuscript." This singular production excited the attention of many curious and inquisitive readers. The printer could give no account of the matter; he only knew that the copy was brought to him by a young man of the name of Chatterton. The contributor was soon found, and threats and persuasions used to induce him to say by what means he had

* Mr. Gough enumerates Dr. Francis Glisson among the eminent natives of Bristol; but Dr. Aikin, in his *Biog. Mem. of Medicine*, says he was born at Ramplsham, in Dorsetshire. He was regius professor of physic of Cambridge University, and long time President of the Royal College of Physicians, London. He was the author of several works, and died in 1677. He was grandson of Walter Glisson, who was a native of Bristol. *Gen. Biogr. Dict.* Wood's *Fasti Oxon.* I. 238.

had acquired the original. At first he gave evasive, and in some instances, impertinent answers. At length, however, he said that he had received the paper, along with some others, from his father, then dead, who found them in some old trunks, which had long been in the muniment room over the northern porch of St. Mary's church, Redcliffe. This account received some confirmation, from the circumstance of his father's having been many years sexton of that church, and that, being a schoolmaster, he had been known to use several pieces of old parchment, as covers to his school-books. Chatterton said, they were taken from Canygne's chest, and that they were the productions of Thomas Rowley, a monk, and others, in the fifteenth century. The poem on the ceremonies on passing the old bridge was followed by others of a similar description; and they soon amounted to a quantity sufficient to fill an octave volume. These productions, real or fictitious, procured him the notice of persons of respectability and literature, not only in his native city, but in various parts of the country. One of the first of these acquaintances was Mr. Catcott, author of a *Treatise on the Deluge*, and also of a *Descriptive Account of Pen Park Hole*, in Gloucestershire. This gentleman introduced the young poet to Mr. Barrett, at that time engaged in collecting materials for his comprehensive *History of Bristol*. These gentlemen, nobly proud of having so promising a youth for their fellow townsman, took particular notice of Chatterton, and implanted, or nurtured, in his bosom, those seeds of ambition and enthusiastic thirst for literary fame, that in the end proved his destruction. Disgusted with his profession, and panting for notice and greatness, he left his native city, in 1770, and came to London, not doubting but that he should find in every lover of literature a patron, and in every respectable bookseller an eager employer. Soon, however, his high-towering notions, if they were not lowered, were, at least, mortified; and he found himself sunk to a humiliating dependance on the publishers of magazines, a species of writing of all others the worst paid for, and

and of all others, as they are at present conducted, with but few exceptions, the least likely to exalt the character, or give respectability to the name of an author. Nor was the particular department which he adopted in those publications of the most respectable, or profitable nature; for though by some political essays he got himself introduced to the virtuous and intrepid Beckford, and to the licentious patriot, Wilkes, he soon found the truth of his own observation, that "there is no money to be got on the patriotic side of the question;" yet it is to be feared he never received any large emoluments, even from the "courtiers," notwithstanding his conviction, that they "are so sensible of their deficiency in merit, that they generously reward all those who know how to daub them with the appearance of it." The fact was then, as it always has been, that there were too many daubers, and poor Chatterton could get no profitable job among them. As a periodical writer, however, on one subject or other, he had sufficient employ; but his remuneration fell much short of his expences; for his aspiring mind had led him into a mode of life, which no exertions of a magazine writer, nor any merit as a poet, could support; and he sunk into the lowest state of poverty and wretchedness. Every one admired and praised his genius; but few seemed disposed to reward it.

Before he left Bristol he had made an effort to procure the patronage of the Hon. Horace Walpole. That friend of genius and sincere admirer of literature having but just been awakened from his dreams of Macpherson's Ossian, did not venture to trust to his own penetration, and accordingly referred the inspection of Chatterton's packet of MSS. to Mr. Gray and Mr. Mason; and those gentlemen immediately pronounced Rowley's Poems to be mere forgeries. On this unpleasant information being communicated to Chatterton, he wrote an impatient or impertinent letter to Walpole, demanding the return of his MSS. which being complied with, the correspondence for ever ceased, and the hopes of the unhappy youth were
blasted.

blasted. It is not quite clear that Walpole acted in this business with that feeling and delicacy towards a poor, but extraordinary child of genius, for such it was impossible to deny Chatterton to be, which the great youth and inexperience of the poet might have suggested. But a more important question than this is before us, and we hasten to glance at the celebrated controversy which the poems of Rowley occasioned among the most acute critics, antiquaries, and bibliographers then living. In the mean time we must follow the unhappy cause of this controversy to his wretched and disgraceful end. Stung with disappointment, devoured by pride, and destroyed by the most abject want and poverty, in a fit of despair, he put a period to his existence by poison, at his lodgings in Brook Street, Helborn, in the eighteenth year of his age.

The controversy respecting the authenticity of Rowley's Poems is now pretty well set at rest, and the honour of these compositions given to the ingenious youth who had adopted the extraordinary and whimsical choice of establishing his fame on the credit of a doubtful monk, rather than on his own indisputable merit.

One great point in this curious controversy, on which sufficient stress does not appear to have been laid, is the question respecting the actual existence of the persons to whom Chatterton attributed his poems. Canning, in whose coffers the MSS. were said to have been found, was buried in Redcliffe Church, in 1474. But why he should have any coffers in the church does not appear. Rowley is a very doubtful personage: he is said to have lived in 1480, and to have been the friend of Canning; but William of Worcester, whose notes on Bristol were written about 1480, and who mentions Canning and other celebrated men, takes no notice of Rowley.*

We cannot enter into this controversy; but such readers as have patience or inclination for the task, may find their curiosity

* In the register of the diocese of Wells, two persons of this name are mentioned, who were both contemporary with Canning.

curiosity amply gratified by the perusal of the undermentioned publications;* which, though by no means the whole of what has appeared on the subject, will be sufficient, we should suppose, to answer every valuable purpose the discussion can afford.

We have now to notice another, if possible, still more unfortunate and wretched child of affliction—another poet—another extraordinary instance of early genius—another martyr—another proof that Bristol is not the very first place in the kingdom for the encouragement of literary merit, or the support of premature misfortune.

VOL. XIII.

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Mrs.

* BELIEVERS.

1. "Poems, supposed to have been written at Bristol, by Thomas Rowley and others, in the Fifteenth Century: the greatest part now first published from the most authentic copies, &c." 8vo. 1778.
2. "Observations upon these Poems, &c. by Jacob Bryant, Esq." 2 vols. 8vo. 1781.
3. Barrett's "History of Bristol."
4. Dr. Jeremiah Milles's Edition of Rowley's Poems, with a Comment; &c. 4to. 1782.

UNBELIEVERS.

1. "Cursor's Observations on the Poems, and Remarks on the Commentaries of Mr. Bryant and Dr. Milles; with a salutary proposal, addressed to the Friends of those Gentlemen." A pamphlet.
2. An Archæological Epistle to Dean Milles, editor of a superb edition of Rowley's Poems, &c." A pamphlet.
3. "An Enquiry into the Authenticity of the Poems attributed to Thomas Rowley, in which the arguments of the Dean of Exeter and Mr. Bryant are examined, by Thomas Warton." A pamphlet.
4. "A Vindication of the Appendix to the Poems called Rowley's, in reply to the Answers of the Dean of Exeter and Jacob Bryant, Esq. and a third anonymous writer. With some farther Observations upon those Poems, and an Examination of the Evidence which has been produced in support of their authenticity. By Thomas Tyrwhitt." 8vo. 1782.
5. Life of Chatterton, in the Biographia Britannica, Vol. III.
6. "The Works of Thomas Chatterton (by Southey and Cottle) containing his Life (which is the same as that in the Biog. Brit.) by G. Gregory, D. D. and Miscellaneous Poems." 3 vols. 8vo. 1803.
7. The Edinburgh Review, Vol. IV. 1801.

Mrs. MARY ROBINSON, the English Sappho, as she has been not ineptly styled, was born near the venerable cathedral on College Green. The manner in which she introduces herself to the notice of the reader, being in a strain so perfectly accordant with the objects of this work, we shall be justified in transcribing it:—"At the period when the ancient city of Bristol was besieged by Fairfax's army, the troops being stationed on a rising ground in the vicinity of the suburbs, a great part of the venerable MINSTER was destroyed by the cannonading, before Prince Rupert surrendered to the enemy; and the beautiful Gothic structure, which, at this moment, fills the contemplative mind with melancholy awe, was reduced to but little more than one half of the original fabric. Adjoining to the consecrated hill, whose antique tower resists the ravages of time, once stood a monastery of monks, of the order of St. Augustine.* This building formed a part of the spacious boundaries which fell before the attacks of the enemy, and became a part of the ruin, which never was repaired, or re-raised to its former Gothic splendors.

"On this spot was built a private house, partly of simple, and partly of modern architecture.† The front faced a small garden, the gates of which opened to the Minster Green (now called the College Green); the west side was bounded by the cathedral, and the back was supported by the ancient cloisters of St. Augustine's monastery. A spot more calculated to inspire the soul with mournful meditation can scarcely be found amidst the monuments of antiquity.

"In this venerable mansion there was one chamber, whose dismal and singular constructure left no doubt of its having been a part of the original monastery. It was supported by the mouldering arches of the cloisters; dark, Gothic, and opening on the Minster sanctuary, not only by casement windows, that

* The Priory of Black Canons. Ed.

† "This mansion was nearly in a ruined state, and uninhabitable in the year 1792."

that shed a dim mid-day gloom, by a narrow winding staircase, at the foot of which an iron-spiked door led to the long gloomy path of cloistered solitude. This place remained, in the situation in which I describe it, in the year 1776, and probably may, in a more ruined state, continue so to this hour.* In this awe-inspiring habitation, which I shall henceforth denominate the Minister-house, during a tempestuous night, on the twenty-seventh of November, 1758, I first opened my eyes to this world of duplicity and sorrow."† This romantic, but just, introduction, will naturally prepare the reader for the history of a distressed, but most delicate and amiable person; and we envy not the disposition of those who can rise from the perusal of her faithful and affecting narrative without strong feelings of pity for the oppressed, indignation against the deliberate baseness which she experienced, and sorrow for the misery to which even the wisest and most excellent of persons expose themselves, when once they depart from the pure dictates of virtue.

Mrs. Robinson's maiden name was Darby: on her mother's side, particularly, she was of a family the most respectable—the Slys, of Boverton, in Glamorganshire, ‡ to whom the celebrated Locke was a relative. She received the rudiments of her education under the sisters of the amiable and well-known Miss Hannah More. A wild, benevolent, but with his means, an impracticable scheme of establishing a whale-fishery on the coast of Labrador, and of civilizing the Esquimaux Indians, took Mr. Darby, then an opulent Bristol merchant, to America; and by that step destroyed the future happiness of his family, who removed to London on the ruin of their affairs. At the age of fifteen, with every attraction and every virtue that could adorn and dignify her character, Miss Darby was married to a worthless and extravagant man, of the name of Robinson, an attorney.

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* January fourteenth, 1796.

† Memoirs of the late Mrs. Robinson, written by herself, Vol. 1. pp. 148.

‡ Collin's Peerage, Vol. VII. p. 273.

ney. This man knew not how to estimate the talents or the virtues of his wife; and he left her, exposed to every temptation to which a young, lovely, accomplished, but poor and destitute female is subject in the centre of a fashionable and flattering circle of society. Under the tuition of Mr. Garrick, Mrs. Robinson prepared for the stage, as the only means of supporting herself. It was in this dangerous "profession," for so it is now fashionable, perhaps proper, to call the business of an actor, that Mrs. Robinson attracted the favourable notice of the most polite, "and best bred man in Europe," now exalted to the highest honours, next to majesty itself, that this country can bestow. —The allurements of royalty, and of royalty in such a person; the infidelity, extravagance, and consequent embarrassments of the man to whom she had a right to look for protection, with a beloved infant, which its unnatural father seemed neither fit, willing, nor even able to support, all conspired to weaken the virtuous resolutions of a heart that had successfully resisted a thousand temptations but little inferior to those it had now to encounter. After several months' incessant and daily application from her royal admirer, Mrs. Robinson consented to forsake her profession, and cast herself on the faith, the honour, and protection of a man, whose various attractions but few of those who, with boasting pretensions to superior fortitude, were lavish in their censures, would have resisted. It is not meant here to justify Mrs. Robinson's engagements with the prince; but, we are persuaded that, in that great day, when "actions come to be weighed," the merciful JUDGE will not be unmindful of any circumstance which can at all lessen, or extenuate, the offences of his erring creatures. "He is not strict to mark iniquity;" but in the midst of "justice remembers mercy;" and it should not be forgotten, that she herself repented of her errors. In a mind constituted like hers, this was sure to be the case.

Mrs. Robinson did not long continue under the immediate protection of the prince. A separation took place, when, by the generous interference of that most enlightened orator, and distinguished

gashed patriot, Mr. Fox, an annuity of 500*l.* per annum, with 200*l.* per annum for her daughter, to commence on the decease of Mrs. Robinson,* was agreed upon, and, we have no doubt, regularly paid. A formal separation had previously taken place between her and her profligate husband ; but another unfortunate attachment towards a gallant colonel, it is said, was the means of rendering her future days still more unhappy. Her income, though augmented by an incessant attention to literary pursuits, proved insufficient to support splendid appearances. We cannot narrate every important action of her life : for all her concerns were important. By travelling asleep, during the night, in a carriage, with the windows open, to serve the interests of her friend, the colonel, she laid the foundation of a complaint, which progressively deprived her of the use of her limbs, and she was, ever after, carried to and from her carriage, and from one room to another. She afterwards went abroad, for the benefit of her health, and remained from home five years. On her return, which was in 1788, she devoted herself to literary pursuits, and continued her labours, with unremitting attention, till within a very short time of her death, which took place on the 26th of December, 1800; and thus ended the life of one of the most accomplished and beautiful women this or any other country ever produced. "Let those who are without sin, throw stones."—Let those who never departed from the paths of rectitude, triumph in their independence ; but such as are well acquainted with all the circumstances of Mrs. Robinson's unhappy life, though they may condemn even her departure from the line of duty, they will not, if they have any sympathies of nature, any bowels of compassion, any true acquaintance with their own natural strength, condemn her with rigour, nor insult her memory with reproaches. Of her genius, her talents, her many personal and mental charms, the numerous virtues of her warm and generous heart, all will be enamoured ; and her name will be recorded in the literary annals of our country, on the same page

with many who are an honour to the place of their birth, and who have never given a pang to their friends, by any action that might sully their fame, or detract from the respect due to their talents. Her principal works amount to about twenty, in prose and verse: with few exceptions, especially such as were written according to the sickly taste of the Della Crusca school, they are certainly replete with whatever can charm the fancy, improve the taste, refine the morals, and interest the feelings, of every correct and generous mind.

Mrs. ANN YEARSLEY, the well-known poetical milkwoman, was a native of this city. Her talents were first discovered by Mrs. Hannah More, who solicited for her the protection of Mrs. Montagu, in a prefatory letter prefixed to her poems, which were published in quarto, in the year 1785. Two years after this, Mrs. Yearsley published a second collection of her poems, and afterwards a poem on the "Inhumanity of the Slave Trade," "Stanzas of Woe," "Earl Godwin, an historical play, performed at Bristol," and "The Royal Captives," a novel, in four volumes. After having experienced considerable encouragement from the public, she very much injured her popularity by a quarrel with her original patroness, which was carried on with much acrimony on both sides, for some time. Her poems abound too much with extravagant imagery; but, on the whole, exhibit strong powers of genius, and a true spirit of poetry. For some time after she had retired from the public "walks" of life, as a milkmaid, she kept the circulating library at the Colonnade, near the Hotwells, and died at Melksham, Wiltshire, in the year 1806.

JAMES DAWES WORGAN, is another instance of early and extraordinary genius—another of the *enfants célèbres*, by whom Bristol has been justly honoured. He was the son of a watch-maker in this city, and was sent to a commercial school, from whence he was recalled to assist in his father's trade. On the death of his father, he became desirous to pursue such classical studies as might qualify him for the christian ministry in the church,

church, for which he had harbored a strong inclination. By the benevolence and kindness of the Rev. J. T. Biddulph, he was sent to the school of the Rev. Samuel Seyer, a gentleman of known erudition and respectability. In one year and a half he passed through the usual courses of Latin and Greek, besides devoting some portion of his time to the study of Hebrew. It was proposed at one time to send him to college; but this plan was abandoned, and he continued his studies in private. He soon acquired a knowledge of French and Italian; but, in 1807, all his prospects of literary eminence were blasted, by a typhus fever, from the effects of which he never recovered. This, however, was not the only source of this young man's suffering: he had formed an attachment which could not be encouraged or gratified; and his disappointment, though supported by an uncommon strength of religious feeling, preyed on his heart, and brought on an aggravated train of consumptive symptoms, which at length ended in dissolution, which he met with the fortitude of a philosopher, and the joy of a true christian.* He died on the twenty-fourth of July, 1809, aged nineteen. As a poet, Mr. Worgan was inferior to many persons this country has produced of the same age: his talents were, however, much above mediocrity; while his facility in acquiring a knowledge of the learned languages was very extraordinary. He has sometimes been compared to the late Kirk White; It must, however, be confessed that there is scarcely one point of resemblance, if we except their similarity of religious views and pursuits, in which these two youths agreed. It should not be omitted to be noticed, that young Worgan, at the age of fifteen, was chosen to undertake the education of a son of Richard Hart Davis, of Clifton, Esq. M. P. and that before the completion of his sixteenth year, he settled as a private tutor in the family of the celebrated Dr. Jenner. His Poems and Essays, with some Particulars of his Life and Character, by an early Friend and

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Associate;

* Select Poems, &c. edited by William Hayley, Esq. pp. 57. 58.

Associate, and a Preface, by Mr. Hayley, were published in a small volume, during the last year, 1810.

Though we are not certain that Mr. WILLIAM BARRETT was a native of this town, yet as he was certainly born in this county, and for many years settled here, it will be proper to notice him in this place. He practised, with much credit and respect, as a surgeon; but is chiefly known as the topographer of Bristol, and as the friend and patron of Chatterton. He employed above twenty years in the compilation of his elaborate History; and the work was published in one volume, quarto, in the year 1789. It is, like most other works of the kind, a dry, uninteresting book, abounding with useless, and often unintelligible documents; yet it contains a variety of valuable matter. As a book of reference, it is somewhat dangerous to rely upon, as the author seems too implicitly to have confided in the apocryphal communications of Chatterton. Mr. Barrett's connection with this unfortunate youth is well known: it was honourable to his character, and highly creditable to his feelings. He died in 1789.

SEBASTIAN CABOT, who has been considered, with justice, the first discoverer of the continent of America, was the son of a Venetian, resident at Bristol. He was born here in the year 1467, and received from his father those branches of knowledge suitable to qualify him for a scientific and useful navigator. Before he had completed his twentieth year, he had made several voyages along with him. In one of these they discovered part of Newfoundland. After the death of his father, it is supposed he completed this discovery; and long before Columbus or Vesputius, also discovered the continent of America.* In the early part of Henry the Eighth he made
another

* Both Stowe and Speed attribute this discovery wholly to Sebastian, though some have supposed that he did it in conjunction with his father; and Purchas asserts, that Cabot discovered more of America than either Americus or Columbus; from whence he suggests, that this continent ought to have been called Cabotiana, or Sebastiana. Vide *Purchas his Pilgrimage, or Relation of the World*.

another attempt at a voyage to the East Indies ; but from some cause or other, not now clearly known, he was disappointed in his first views, and therefore, after carrying on some traffic in Hispaniola and Porto Rico, he returned to England. He soon again left his native country and went to Spain, where he was treated with much respect and attention by the court, and was made chief pilot of Spain ; the highest honour which, in that country, his profession could obtain. At the suggestion and expence of some rich merchants, he undertook, about the year 1525, to make a voyage, by the passage of Magellan, then newly found, to the Moluccas ; but the mutinous conduct of his crew, and a deficiency of supplies on the part of his owners, induced him, after an absence of five years, during which he made many valuable discoveries, to return home, without having accomplished all the objects of his voyage. He then came once more to his native country, and settled at Bristol. In the early part of the reign of Edward, a new company having been formed at Bristol, called the Merchant Adventurers, Cabot was appointed, by letters patent, to be the governor, or director, and had a pension of 166*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.* assigned him. About this time he was the cause of a trade being opened with Russia, and eventually of the formation of the Russian Company, of which he was made governor during his life, which terminated when he was nearly eighty years of age. We should not omit to mention, that he was the first who noticed the variations of the needle. He wrote instructions and advertisements of and for the direction of the intended voyage to Cathay;* and was also the author of *Navigazione nelle Parte Settentrionale* ; first published in folio, at Venice, in 1583.†

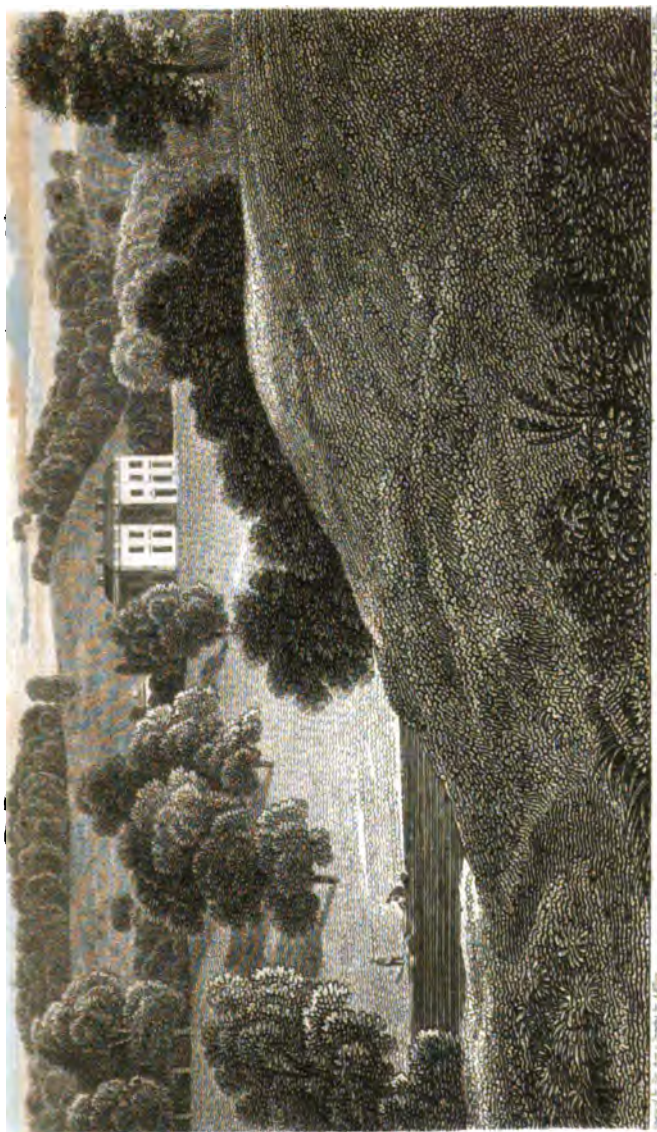
We shall close our list of Bristol worthies, though we might have extended it to a much greater length, by some notice of Dr. CALES EVANS, with which we have been favoured chiefly by

* In Hakluyt's Voyages.

† Cambell's Lives of the Admirals.

by his relative, the Rev. J. Evans, of Irlington, well known as the candid author of a *Sketch of Religious Denominations*, and various other publications. Dr. Evans was born in this town, in the year 1738; and having received the first part of his education for the ministry, under his own father, he came to London about the year 1754, and became a pupil in the academy at Mile End, then under the direction of Doctors Walker and Jennings. He here entered on the sacred ministry; and after he left the academy, settled for some time at Unicorn Yard, Southwark. In 1759, he returned to Bristol, and became assistant to his father in the Baptist Chapel at Broadmead, and also in the academy, already noticed. He was ordained, in 1767, by the Rev. Dr. Stennett. Soon after this, he engaged in establishing the Bristol Education Society, and lived to see the fruit of his benevolent exertions. About the year 1775, he engaged in a spirited controversy with the late Rev. John Wesley, respecting the American war, in which, it is said, the pious founder of methodism did not appear to advantage. In 1781, he was elected president of the Education Society, which office he retained till his death, in 1791. His funeral sermon, by Dr. Stennett, is a just tribute of respect to a learned, active, and benevolent man. There is a handsome medallion of him, with an inscription, stating the services he rendered the institution, in the Museum of the Academy at Bristol, executed by BACON, and an engraved head, by HOLLOWAY, was published soon after his decease.

We regret that the plan of this work does not admit our ranking in this list of persons, so honourable to the city of Bristol, the lives of MORE, SOUTHEY, and COTTE, all of them, we believe, natives of this town; and surely it will not be denied, that whatever interest we may feel in the delineation and description of the remains of antiquity, as they are exhibited in the ruins of castles, churches, and other public edifices; what importance we may attach to the various improvements which modern taste and modern ingenuity have introduced in the
various



NEWTON ST LOR.

Scamptree.

The Seat of William Lord Langford, Esq.

Printed and Published by W. H. Smith, 10, Strand, London, W.C.



various towns, villages, and districts of our beloved isle, still the real "beauties," the true value of a country, consists in its inhabitants. Mind, in a general sense, never falls to ruin—there is no such thing as intellectual antiquity: those works which are the effects of human wisdom are daily mouldering from our touch; and it is our duty and our interest to snatch them from oblivion and forgetfulness; that we may preserve some visible record of those whose wisdom, piety, and benevolence first gave them existence. Men shall live when their labours are destroyed; and to tell who and what they were, is one of the most useful and pleasing duties of the historian; nor would the labours of the topographer and the antiquary have any interest, if the biography of past ages were neglected, and the niches in history left to lose their living subjects, as do the proud and stately mansions those effigies which perish as we gaze on them, and every day exhibit new proofs of the inferiority of matter to mind.

END OF SOMERSETSHIRE.

STAFFORDSHIRE.

THIS county belonged to the ancient *Cornavii* of the Britons, the division of *Flavia Casariensis* of the Romans, and the kingdom of *Mercia* during the Saxon heptarchy. Bede* calls the inhabitants *Angli Mediterranei*, the Midland English. The Saxon name was Statfordscyre, from the shire town, Stafford, which name some† have derived from the river Sow, which flows about three miles east of it.‡ Somner|| says, somewhat fancifully, *a vado forte Baculo transmeabili*. Whatever may have been the original name of the river, it is pretty obvious, that the name of the town, and from thence that of the county, has emerged; as the terminational word, *ford*, demonstrates; but it is highly probable that the *Sow* had, at one time, the letter *t*, in its orthography; and if so, there will be very little difficulty in discovering a rational etymology for Stafford and Staffordshire. Camden says, it was called Betheney, at one time.

The two Roman military ways, Watling Street, and Icknield Street, pass through this county. Watling Street enters it out of Warwickshire, near Tamworth, and running westward, passeth into Shropshire, at no great distance from Brewood. Icknield Street enters the county, from Warwickshire, at the village of Hansworth, near Birmingham, runs a little beyond Shenstone, at which place it crosses Watling Street, and thence proceeding in a direction north-east and by north, enters the county of Derbyshire,

* Ecclesiastical History, IV. p. 3.

† Salmon's New Survey, II. 515.

‡ "From Tillington, Sow, washing the walls of Stafford, passeth between the town and castle of Stafford town." Erdeswicke's Survey of Staffordshire, p. 57. Edition of 1723, by Sir Simon Degge, Kat.

|| Saxon Dict. *in loc.*

Derbyshire, over the Dove at Monk's Bridge.* There is a great confusion in both the maps, and the descriptions respecting this road.† It is said to have derived its name from a conjecture that this part of the county belonged to the Iceni. "The Ikening Street," says the learned, or the whimsical, Mr. Whitaker,‡ "confessedly signifies the way which led to the Iceni of the eastern coast." The Roman stations in this county that are known, are *Pennocrucium*, near Stretton; and *Etoctum*, at Wall, near Lichfield. But Salmon§ gives to this county four Roman stations, which, he says, are *Mediolanum*, at Knightley; *Urisconium*, at Wrottesley; *Uxacona*, at Wall-Lichfield; and *Etoctum*, at Barbeacon. The first of these stations, Camden, in a very positive strain, places in Montgomeryshire; and Bishop Horsley fixes it on a slip of land, inclosed by the Tern, and another river. *Urisconium*, we have no doubt, is the Wroxeter

* Plot's Natural History of Staffordshire, p. 400.

† Erdeswicke does not appear to mention it; or rather, he mistakes it for Watling Street. In describing the course of the "Brewwood Water," he says, it "washes the banks of Stretton, so called, because it stands on the way called *Watling Street*, as if you said *Street Town*." p. 68. It is on Leekfield Street that Stretton stands: the etymology may still be the same.

‡ History of Manchester, Vol. I. p. 103, second ed. 8vo. The topographer or the antiquary, who consults this very odd book, will have need to keep a strict eye to the windings and turnings of the author, or he will be led into very great mistakes; as many, perhaps most, of Mr. Whitaker's conclusions and reasonings are founded on some previous supposition. "In all probability,"—"most likely,"—"we may suppose,"—"the Britons must have constructed, &c."—"I apprehend," and other hypothetical phrases of this kind, are favourite modes of expression in this author's works; and it is from such premises that he reasons and decides, in the most ingenious and positive manner, through several pages, till he seems to have persuaded himself, and almost his reader, that he is proceeding on indubitable and acknowledged facts. A society of antiquaries, composed of such men as Mr. Whitaker, would produce far more curious, and even extensive volumes, than those which at present compose the *Archæologia*; we will not say more useful or valuable. The History of Manchester, nevertheless, contains much information that may, with safety, be relied on.

§ Survey II. p. 517.

Wroxeter of Salop;* *Usacona*, or *Usaona*, which ought to have been mentioned earlier in the present volume, we believe, belong either to Sheriffs Hales, on the borders of Shropshire and this county,† or to the place assigned it on the map of Shropshire, in the British Atlas, accompanying this work. Great, and in some instances, insuperable, difficulties, must ever attend the task of assigning proper places to the remains of the Roman military roads and stations, which are faintly discoverable in various parts of this island. Salmon places *Pennocrucium* at Oldbury, in Warwickshire, and gives the second journey of Antoninus, leading from the north by Chester to London, as his authority; adding, that Penkridge, the place assigned it by some other antiquaries, has "neither military way, remains, nor distance to boast of."‡ But Plot, Gale, Horsley, and Stukeley all nearly agree, that this is the site of that station. It must, however, be confessed, that this is not clearly ascertained, though its distance from *Etoctum*,§ the apparent etymology of its name in the river *Penck*, at the same distance laid down by Antoninus, and the ancient city of *Pennocrucium*, which may be said still to exist in *Penkridge*, though at present but an obscure village, naturally encourage some presumption that this is the place. The remains of Roman antiquity, which have from time to time been discovered upon the roads and stations, shall be noticed in their proper places.

Staffordshire is an inland county, lying nearly in the centre of the kingdom. It is a long and narrow tract, something in the form of a rhombus; bounded on the north by Cheshire and Derbyshire, on the east by Leicestershire, on the west by Shropshire, and on the south by Warwickshire and Worcester-shire. Its greatest length, from north-north-east to south-south-west, is about sixty miles; and its greatest breadth, from New-ton Salney, to the western point of Terbey Heath, near Market Drayton,

* Vide *Ants*, p. 8.

† Gough, *Add. Cam.* III. 29.

‡ Vol. II. p. 522.

§ See Pennant's *Journey from Chester to London*, p. 158, 2vo. ed. 1811.

Drayton; in Shropshire, is thirty-eight miles.* It contains about 780,800 acres of land; 100,000 of which are pasture, 500,000 arable, and the remaining 180,800 woods, waters, wastes, &c. By the last census, there appeared in this county to be 45,198 houses, 239,153 inhabitants; 118,698, of which were males, and 120,455 females. Of these numbers 72,465 were employed in trade and manufactures, and 48,990 in agriculture. The *poors'-rates*, in 1803, amounted to 110,624*l.* at four shillings and two-pence farthing in the pound; and the property assessment, in 1806, was 1,840,961*l.* The parochial rates, since that period, have risen to a still more alarming extent. In little more than twelve months, before the year 1795, they advanced, in the parish of Tettenhall, fifty per cent.† The conclusion, therefore, if we had not actual observation to confirm our statement, is rational, that the amount of the *poors'-rates*, since the year 1806, has advanced in an equal proportion. This county sends ten members to parliament, two of which are for the shire; at present Sir Edward Littleton, and the Right Hon. Lord Granville Leveson Gower, D. C. L.

The present *CIVIL DIVISION* of this county is as follows:—There are five Hundreds:—Totmanslow, to the north; Pyrehill, to the north-west; Cuddlestone, to the south-west; Offlow, to the east; and Seisdon, to the South. There is one city, Lichfield; three boroughs, Stafford, Newcastle-under-Lyne, and Tamworth; and twenty-four market towns, ancient and modern.

The *ECCLESIASTICAL DIVISION* comprises one hundred and eighty one parishes;‡ and the diocese of Lichfield and Coventry contains Derbyshire, the larger part of Warwickshire, the whole

* Pitt's Agricultural Survey of Staffordshire, p. 2.

† Ibid. pp. 37, 238.

‡ According to Mr. Pitt, (Survey, p. 4.) who says, that by the term parish he means a tract of land having a place of worship, and united in some degree, by a common or mutual interest, without regarding the ecclesiastical constitution, or dependence upon a superior or mother church.

whole of the county of Stafford, (except two parishes) and nearly half of Shropshire. It is divided into four Archdeaconries, Coventry, Stafford, Derby, and Salop, and contains 643* churches and chapels, of which 250 are impropriate. The Iceni according to Dr. Plot† were the original inhabitants of Staffordshire. In this opinion, however, he seems to stand alone, and unsupported. Mr. Shaw says, it must be a mistake, because that tribe were undoubtedly of Derbyshire. Camden and Gough‡ will not allow that they extended farther to the west than Huntingdonshire; while Salmon§ confines them to the two maritime counties of Norfolk and Suffolk. The opinion of Mr. Shaw is, that the Ordovices were the aboriginal inhabitants of this district, and it seems at least pretty clear, that they possessed it many centuries before the Christian era. These were a brave and warlike people whose territories extended over a great portion of Wales, as well as many counties in England. They were not, however, long permitted to enjoy their dominions in tranquillity. The Cornabii breaking through the limits of their original settlements on the banks of the Dee, conquered a large tract of country to the west and north-west, and established a powerful monarchy of which *Condate*§ was the capital. The Brigantes, whose original habitations lay more to the north, in their turn subdued a portion of the territories of this tribe, a short time before the arrival of the Romans. Upon this event the metropolis was transferred from *Condate* to *Ureconium*, now Wroxetei; and this honour the latter seems to have enjoyed a considerable time, after the first invasion of Britain, by these unrivalled conquerors. The

VOL. XII.

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county

* Ecclesiast. An. Register for 1808, p. 205.

† Plot's History of Staffordshire, p. 393.

‡ Gough's Camden, Vol. II. p. 159.

§ Salmon's New Survey of England, p. 155.

§ The situation of this city is much disputed. Mr. Whitaker concludes it to have stood at Kinderton. Dr. Wilkes, on the other hand, will have it to have been placed at Bell-pool near Middlewich.

county we are about to describe formed part of the dominion of the Cornabii, as has been already mentioned, to the latest period of their existence as an independent nation. The Cangi * indeed, from their name, are supposed by some to have possessed a portion of the chase, or forest of Cannock; but if they did so, it was merely in the capacity of herdsmen or servants to the Cornabii. Others, however, positively deny all connection between the words Cannock, and Cangi; maintaining the former to be derived from the name of Canute, the first of the Danes who possessed the regal dignity in England, and who lived several centuries posterior to the period of which we are now speaking. We have no hesitation to pronounce the latter idea erroneous.

When the Romans pushed their conquests into the interior of this country, the territories of the Cornabii, would appear to have comprised, besides Staffordshire, the counties of Chester, Salop, Warwick, and Worcester. During the sanguinary contests our ancestors maintained for freedom against these masters of the world, we hear very little concerning this district or its inhabitants. The level aspect of the country, in general, afforded but little inducement to the Britons, to oppose themselves here to the disciplined armies of Rome. Perfectly skilled in military science, the latter could easily supply by art the deficiencies of nature. The Britons, on the other hand, comparatively ignorant of the art of war, justly considered the hills, as offering the best means of counteracting and balancing the advantages of discipline. To the hills therefore they generally retired, and there, history informs us, they resisted with the most heroic valour, every effort of the Romans to reduce them to subjection; and though at last compelled to submit, their determined courage, and generous ardour for freedom, excited the eloquence and admiration of their haughty but enlightened conquerors.

After

* Whitaker's History of Manchester, Vol. III. p. 33. Shaw's History of Staffordshire, Vol. I. p. 14.

After the subjection of their country, the Cornabii seem to have continued the faithful friends and allies of the Roman people. Numeri and Turmae, of this tribe, are frequently mentioned in the Notitia as serving in the armies of the latter emperors. From hence it would appear that they retained their original name, even posterior to the decline of the Roman power. It is certainly then in no small degree remarkable, that the appellation Cornabii never afterwards occurs in the annals of English history, nor has any traces of it been discovered either in this county, or in any other part of the island.

When the legions of Rome were recalled for the protection of the central dominions of the empire, against those swarms of barbarians, which ultimately effected its ruin, the Britons found themselves in a most unhappy and miserable situation. The flower of their youths, trained up in the Roman army, had been carried along with it to assist in the defence of Italy. Those who remained at home being entirely devoted to the arts of peace; and having their minds debased by slavery, were totally unfit for the arduous conflicts of the field. Secure under the safe-guard of Roman valour, they had lost all idea of defending themselves. Such was the situation of our ancestors, when the Scotch and Picts, now no longer opposed by the veteran troops of Rome, broke through those walls, which before they had assailed in vain, and advancing into the heart of England, plundered and massacred at will its weak, and defenceless inhabitants. In their thirst for vengeance, these ferocious enemies spared neither sex nor age. All were promiscuously put to the sword, or perished in the flames. The miserable Britons, unable to resist, sent deputies to Rome to implore assistance, but their entreaties were heard in vain. The Romans, scarcely adequate to the protection of Italy itself, were compelled to abandon the remote provinces to their fate. In this direful extremity, our ancestors, too timid and irresolute to arm in their own defence, resolved to dispatch ambassadors to the Saxons, a warlike tribe of Germany. These eagerly embraced the op-

portunity offered to them of extending their military fame, and acquiring a portion of those riches which Roman civilization had introduced into Britain. A considerable army was immediately sent over, by whose prowess and intrepidity, the Picts and Scots were once more driven back to their original settlements. No sooner was this service performed, than the Saxons, allured by the opulence and fertility of the country, and the easy conquest the dastardly behaviour of its inhabitants promised, determined to seize upon it for themselves. With this view they warmly urged to their countrymen on the continent the many advantages to be derived from such a measure, nor were their representations long neglected. Thousands immediately abandoned their native land, to join the standard about to be unfurled for the subjugation of Britain. A pretence for quarrelling was soon discovered; then followed a scene of desolation and cruelty, more dreadful, if possible, than that which marked the progress of the northern barbarians, from whose sanguinary grasp they had just been freed.

The Saxon army being divided into several corps under leaders totally independent of each other, advanced into different districts, each with the view of conquering for themselves. In the end seven kingdoms were established, of which Mercia was the finest, if not the most powerful, extending over all the midland counties. It was founded by Crida, who arrived in England in 584, and assumed the purple the following year.* Staffordshire formed a portion of this monarchy and contained several of its principal towns.

In the neighbourhood of Lichfield, is the forest of Cannock, the favourite chace of the Mercian kings, near which it is extremely probable some of their palaces anciently reared their lofty battlements.

During the inroads of the Danes this county bore a considerable share of the calamities, the cruelty and rapacity, occasioned in almost every portion of our island. Several sanguinary battles

* Rapin's History of England, Vol. I. p. 53.

battles took place between them and the Saxons within the limits of Mercia. The Saxon annals mention a dreadful defeat which they sustained in that kingdom in the year 911, but do not specify the spot on which the action was fought.* The slaughter was prodigious, and among the slain were two kings, Ewils and Healfden, two earls, Ohter and Scurfa, six generals, and a vast number of inferior officers, many of them very considerable persons. Henry of Huntingdon gives us a similar account of this action, differing only a little with respect to the names of the great men killed. Concerning the scene of this battle much diversity of opinion prevails among succeeding antiquaries and historians. Florence of Worcester, and Ralph Higden, contend that it took place in the vicinity of Tettenhall, in this county. Ethelwald, on the other hand, maintains with equal confidence that it was fought at Wednesfield. The truth seems to be that two battles † happened in this part of Staffordshire; the one near Tettenhall, in 907, and the other at Wednesfield, in the year 911, ‡ in both of which the same parties were engaged. These brilliant victories are among the number of those which distinguished the glorious and successful reign of Edward the elder, second son of the celebrated Alfred, by his queen Ethelswitha, daughter of a Mercian Earl.§ Ethelfleda the king's sister, and widow of Ethelbert, governor of that kingdom, contributed much by her prudence, activity, and va-

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lour,

* Shaw's History of Staffordshire, Vol. I. p. 38.

† Higden. Gough's Camden, vol. II. p. 500.

‡ Antiquaries and historians differ no less with regard to the period in which these battles were fought, than they do with respect to the scene of them, Asser says, the battle of Wednesfield happened in 910, and so it is in Leland's Collectanea, vol. II. p. 219. Ethelwald describes it as fought on the 5th of August, 911, but his account evidently points it out as the battle of Tettenhall and not that of Wednesfield. The action of Tettenhall is mentioned by Leland, in page 183, of his Collectanea, as having taken place in 907, but in page 282 of the same work he places it in 933. Hoveden, p. 242 makes the date of it 907, but Huntingdon, p. 203, says 911. •

§ Hume's History of England, vol. I. p. 99.

lour, to the continued success of her brother's arms.* Retaining the government after the death of her husband, she erected numerous castles, raised and organised a powerful army, and is said to have been personally present, in all the great actions fought during her government, within the limits of Mercia.

At the time of the partition of England, between Edmand Ironside and Canute, Staffordshire, as part of Mercia, fell to the latter. After the conquest, the whole estates of the Mercian Earls were divided by William among four of his principal followers, Hugh de Montgomery, Earl of Arundel, Robert de Stafford, Henry de Ferrars, and William Fitz Ansculph, the last of whom held twenty-five manors in this county. The other landholders besides the king were the bishop of Chester, the abbies of Westminster and Burton, the church of Rheims, the canons of Stafford and Wolverhampton, Earl Roger, &c.† In the reign of Henry I. Robert de Belesme earl of Shrewsbury, ravaged this county in support of the pretensions of Robert Curthosæ the King's brother.‡

During the contentions for the crown between the houses of York, and Lancaster, a decisive battle was fought at Bloreheath, in this county. The earl of Salisbury marching to join the Duke of York, who then lay at Ludlow in Shropshire, was intercepted at this place, by the royal army under Lord Audley, who posted himself here for that purpose, by the express orders of Queen Margaret, the celebrated consort of Henry VI. she being extremely fearful lest the king's person should fall into the power of his adversary. Lord Audley's forces amounted to ten thousand men, and had besides the advantage of chusing their position, whereas the Yorkist troops did not exceed 5000, men with all the incumbrances and disadvantages of an army on its march. The Earl of Salisbury, to obviate these difficulties, as much as possible, and with the view of separating the royalists, and throwing them off their guard, had recourse to stratagem,

* Hume's History of England, vol. I. p. 102.

† Domesday Book, Fol. 246. A. ‡ Gough's Camden, Vol. II. p. 499.

gem. Between the two armies ran a small rivulet with very steep banks, and not easily passed. Feigning therefore a retreat, he induced Lord Audley to order a precipitate pursuit. The consequence was the division of his army by the rivulet; which the Earl no sooner perceived than he ordered his troops to face about, and commence the attack. The vigour of the onset, and the surprise and astonishment of the enemy, soon decided the fortune of the day.* Lord Audley himself, and two thousand four hundred of the Cheshire gentlemen whose loyalty and ardour had led them into the van, fell in the action.† The Queen, who beheld the defeat of her army, from the tower of Muccleston church, fled to Eccleshall castle, while Salisbury proceeded, without further opposition, to the place of his destination.‡

Michael Drayton commemorates this important battle, so fatal to the Lancastrian cause; and preserves the names of the Cheshire heroes, who fought on either side.

At Tutbury, as well as Chartley, Mary, the beautiful but unfortunate Queen of Scots, resided at different periods during the time of detention in England, by her rival Elizabeth. At the latter place her correspondence with the Pope was contrived and carried on. Here likewise she resided, previous to being conducted to Fotheringham castle, where her trial and condemnation took place, followed by her execution, to the indelible disgrace of the great and illustrious princess who then swayed the English sceptre.

Staffordshire, during the great rebellion, as it is called, in general supported the cause of the parliament, but to this observation the exceptions were perhaps more numerous than in any other county in England. The Dyotts of Lichfield and many of the country gentlemen were conspicuous for their loyalty and attachment to the house of Stuart. Lichfield was

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taken

* Hume's History of England, Vol. II. p. 204.

† Leland's Itin. VII. 37. Gough's Camden, Vol. II. p. 509.

‡ Pennant's Journey, p. 61, 62.

taken and retaken several times in the course of the war, as shall be more fully shewn when we come to the history and description of that city. In the neighbourhood of Stafford, the Earl Northampton engaged Sir John Gell, and Sir William Brereton, and after a most desperate rencounter, succeeded in compelling the enemy to abandon the field. He himself however being too eager in the pursuit, was surrounded by a party of republican horse and slain. This event so discouraged the Royalists that they fell back again upon Stafford, which town soon after surrendered to the parliament, as did also the town of Wolverhampton. In this county, Charles II. lay concealed after the fatal battle of Worcester, till he found an opportunity of making his escape to France. The circumstances attending his concealment, the hardships he underwent, and the faithful attachment of his friends, particularly of the three brothers, Humphry, John, and Richard Pendsford, will be found very fully detailed by Mr. Shaw in his General History of Staffordshire, to which we beg leave to refer such as feel strongly interested in the misfortunes of royalty.

In the year 1745, the Scotch rebels posted themselves at Leek, to the great consternation of the inhabitants, who feared the consequences of an action, betwixt them and the army of the Duke of Cumberland, then stationed in the town of Stone. The rebels, however, deemed it prudent to withdraw to their own country, without hazarding an engagement. Since that period the history of Staffordshire is merely a history of its commerce and manufactures.

ECCLESIASTICAL HISTORY.—Mr. Shaw is of opinion that in the days of Druidism, the chief seat of the arch-druid of Britain, was situated in the vicinity of Sutton Colfield, which anciently formed a portion of the forest of Cank or Cannoc. This conclusion is drawn from a combination of evidence which we confess appears to us to possess considerable weight. The forest of Cannoc lying nearly in the centre of England, corresponds with the position of the well authenticated residence of
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that supreme priest in the continental countries. An extensive common here still bears the name of Drood or Druid-heath. On this spot, it is supposed, the people were annually accustomed to assemble to have their disputes, civil and religious, finally decided by the arch-druid. The words Cannoc and Colfield, though unquestionably of Saxon origin, Mr. Shaw says, bear an evident relation in meaning to druidical religious rites. Besides these circumstances in support of this notion, there are two large areas, immediately adjoining, which cannot be well accounted for, except upon the supposition of their being the summer and winter habitations of this sovereign Druid. A third area of smaller dimensions, which is placed at the east end of the heath, may probably have been appropriated for the reception of some of his more illustrious attendants. Add to all this, the position of the areas, particularly that now called Knaves Castle, than which perhaps there is not a spot in England better adapted for making observations in astronomy, the favourite pursuit of the Druids, The summit of Barbeacon hill, adjoining commands an open and extensive view of Warwickshire, Leicestershire, Derbyshire, and Worcestershire, besides several counties in Wales. If therefore, as we are informed, high hills were the points from which by means of fire these priests gave notice to the country, of their quarterly sacrifices, what place could be found more suitable to their purpose than this?

The inhabitants of Staffordshire, forming part of Mercia, continued in the practice of Paganism, till the reign of Penda, long after its abolition in the neighbouring states. At length this monarch having sent his son Peadda into Northumberland to solicit in marriage Alchflida, the daughter of King Oswy, he was converted to Christianity by the persuasive discourses of the venerable Bede. The object of his journey being accomplished, he returned to his native country accompanied by a number of celebrated characters, who immediately began to spread the doctrines and precepts of the Gospel with great success among the idolatrous Mercians. Penda, who seems to have
viewed

viewed these events with the utmost indifference, soon after entered into a war with the Northumbrian prince, and being defeated and slain in battle, his dominions were seized by the conqueror. Oswy, in conjunction with Peadda, remained in possession of Mercia for the space of three years, during which time Christianity was declared the established religion, and the cathedral of Lichfield founded. At the end of this period, however, the inhabitants, weary of subjection to a foreign master, revolted, and having proved successful in regaining their independence conferred the crown on Wulfhere, one of the sons of Penda, who still embraced the Pagan idolatry.

During the earlier part of the reign of this prince, the cause of Christianity was greatly injured by the vigour and enmity with which he persecuted its professors. So strong indeed was the aversion he had conceived against the religion of Jesus, that he ordered his two sons to be put to death, because they refused to become apostates. Cellagh, who had succeeded Diuma, the first bishop of Mercia, was compelled to fly to Scotland for safety. Wulfhere, however, in the end became a convert to Christianity himself. The circumstances which led to this change in his religious sentiments are very imperfectly stated by historians. His first act was to appoint Trumhere, an English clergyman, who had been educated in Scotland to the vacant see.* To this prelate Juraman succeeded. The famous St. Chad, or St. Ceadda was next consecrated. About the year 669, by this bishop the episcopal see of Mercia was finally fixed at Lichfield. His successor Winefred, being deposed by the archbishop of Canterbury, the bishopric was divided into five several dioceses, Lichfield, Worcester, Hereford, Leicestat and Sidnacester.†

Offa, one of the most powerful and illustrious monarchs of the Saxon heptarchy, required of Pope Adrian that his dominions

* Ecclesiast. An. Register, for 1809, p. 78, 79.

† Higde, Polychron. v. L p. 241.
p. 40.

Ecclesiast. An. Register, for 1809,

nians should be governed by an archiepiscopal power. To this he was induced by feelings of pride and resentment, that his bishops should be subordinate to an authority beyond the limits of his own kingdom. In compliance with the wish of Offa, Lichfield was constituted an independent archbishopric in 786. This city however, only continued to enjoy the distinction it had thus obtained, till the death of Offa, when the archbishop of Canterbury* prevailed upon Leo the then Pope, by a golden bait, to reduce it once more to its ancient rank within the jurisdiction of his see. About the year 1067, the bishopric was carried from hence to Chester on account of the mean condition of the town. From Chester it was removed a few years subsequent to Coventry, where it continued till after a succession of 45 prelates, Walter de Langton was unanimously chosen bishop of Lichfield and Coventry. From this period, nothing remarkable happened in Staffordshire, connected with church history, previous to the reformation; when the cathedral of Lichfield was despoiled of the rich shrine of St. Chad, and the see of Coventry again disjoined from it. These two bishopricks remained separate till the era of the restoration, when they again united in the person of the celebrated Dr. John Hacket, who was elevated to this dignity as a reward for his pious heroism, during the persecution of the established church by the puritanical party. Since that time this diocese has undergone no changes deserving of notice.

ASPECT OF THE COUNTRY.—The aspect of Staffordshire varies in different districts: the middle and south portions are generally level, or only interspersed with gentle eminences. To this observation, however, there are a few exceptions, among these the hills of Dudeley and Sedgely, the Quartose and Ragstone hills of Rowley, and the hills of Clent and Barbeacon may be reckoned the most conspicuous. The high grounds of Byshbury and Essington, and some situations near Tettenhall, and Enville, as well as on Cannock-heath, also reach considerable

* Camden says King Kenulph. Gough's Camden, Vol. II. p. 512.

ble elevation. That portion of the county last mentioned was in ancient times wholly covered with oak, but has been for several centuries entirely despoiled of its foliage. Scarcely a tree now remains to enliven the view throughout an extent of 40 square miles, or 2500 acres.

The northern division of Staffordshire is quite of an opposite character to that on the south. Here the surface of the country is for most part bleak and hilly. Only a few of the eminences, however, rise to any remarkable height. The summit of Bunster, near Ilam, was found by Mr. Pitt * in the course of his survey to be 1200 feet above the level of the Thames at Brentford. According to the same author the Weever hills, and some other points, even ascend so high as 1500 feet. The general elevation of this district above the southern part is estimated at from 100 to 200 yards. That portion of it, which is denominated the moorlands, is the commencement of that range of mountains which stretch themselves from hence through the centre of England northwards till they enter Scotland, receiving different appellations in their progress, and becoming more lofty as they approach the north.

As the subject is unquestionably a curious one, we deem it unnecessary to apologize to our readers for transcribing from Mr. Pitt's Survey a view of the particular elevation of different spots in this *interior* county, above the level of the sea :

"Elevation of sundry points of land in this county, perpendicularly above the level of the tide of the Thames at Brentford.

<i>Particular Spots.</i>	<i>Feet.</i>
Banks of the Severn at Over Ashley	60
————Tame at Tamworth.....	150
————Trent at its junction with the Dove.....	100
————Summit of the Staffordshire Canal.....	385
————Summit of the Birmingham Canal.....	500
————Summit of the Wirely Canal at Essing- ton-wood new Colliery.....	560
	Summit

* Pitt's Survey of Staffordshire, p. 10.

<i>Particular Spots.</i>	<i>Feet.</i>
Summit of Byshbury-hill,.....	650
————Barbeacon	750
————the highest peak of Rowley hill.....	900
————The grand trunk Canal.....	420
————a hill called Bunster, near Ilam, in the } Moorlands	1200
————the Weever hills, and some other of the } highest points in the Moorlands	
	1500

“Many of the above are by actual observation, and others by estimate only.”*

SOIL.—This county exhibits as great a variety of soils as any other in England of proportionate extent. Mr. Pitt says the arable soils may in general be divided into, first, the stiff and strong clayey, (argillaceous), secondly the loose and light, sandy, (arenaceous,) thirdly, although the county has no chalk, yet in the limestone district, lime earth (calcareous), fourthly the mixed or compound soil or loam composed of the above with the addition of stones and other matters, *terra composita*. The strong clayey soil is most prevalent in the hundred of Castleton, and in those portions of the hundred of Offlow which lie north of the Trent, and east of the Tame, together with the southern parishes of Pyrehill and Totmanstow. The light soil predominates chiefly in the hundred of Offlow, to the south of the Trent, and in the lands adjoining to Pattingham, Womburn, Himley, and Kings Swinford in the hundred of Seisdon. The calcareous district is of small extent, and situated chiefly eastward of a semicircular line, which may be supposed to be drawn from Farley by Kingsale and Ipstones to Warton in the hundred of Totmanstow. The other districts of that hundred, and all the central portions the county or on the south side of the river Trent, are composed of the mixt compound soil. The meadow grounds, which for the most part lie in the vicinity of the canals and rivers, usually partake of the

* Pitt's Survey of Staffordshire, p. 9, 10.

the nature of the arable soils in their neighbourhood, with the addition of the sediment of water, when within reach of the streams. In some particular spots peat earth forms the soil in the meadow ground, reaching different degrees of thickness in different places. This species of earth, consists principally of the decayed roots of aquatic vegetables. Sometimes it contains trunks of trees, of which many curious specimens, have of late years been found near Stonehall in the parish of Shenstone. When properly drained, consolidated, and meliorated, this kind of soil becomes valuable pasture and meadow land.

CLIMATE.—The climate of this county rather inclines to wet. The air is generally good, but in the northern parts extremely sharp, impressing the senses with a greater degree of cold, than in most other counties of England. The annual rains are calculated, supposing them to stagnate without waste, or evaporation, at upwards of 36 inches, an excess of nearly 16 inches above the computed rains in the metropolis. The quantity of snow which falls in the moorlands, during winter, is very great, a circumstance which no doubt contributes much to the piercing coldness of that district.

RIVERS.—Staffordshire is plentifully watered by rivers; but none of them are navigable, at least within its boundaries. Some of them, however, are characterised by very peculiar and interesting features. The Severn in its circuitous course, from Plinlimmon hill in Montgomeryshire, Wales, to the Bristol channel, flows through the parish of Over Arley, situated in the south-west extremity of the hundred of Seisdon. This circumstance, however, does not seem to entitle it to rank among the Staffordshire rivers, though joined by a number of tributary streams, which take their rise in, and flow for a considerable space, within the precincts of the county. The Trent, therefore, which springs from Newpool near Biddulph, on the confines of Cheshire, is generally esteemed the principal river of Staffordshire. With respect to the rivers of England at large, it is undoubtedly the third, whether we regard its size, or the
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extent of its course. Its stream is bold and clear, bearing a strong resemblance to the Thames, but exceeding that noble river in rapidity. The Trent, in its course to the sea, waters some of the most fertile and best cultivated districts of England. During its passage through Staffordshire, its banks are covered with rich and luxuriant meadows, between which the water glides along in silver beauty. Flowing past the busy town of Northampton, and the surrounding hills every where crowded with potteries; and adorned by Mr. Wedgwood's celebrated Etruria, it reaches the mansion of Trentham, the seat of the noble family of Gower. Here the efforts of art have greatly increased the natural beauty of the river, by swelling it into a broad and expansive lake. On the one side of this charming expanse, but at a little distance, stands the house, surrounded by a verdant and smiling lawn decked with trees and laid out with the greatest taste. On the other rises a lofty spreading hill covered with oak from its summit to the very brink of the water. Leaving this, the river meets near Oatlands with some of the numerous canals which abound in every part of the county, and frequently follow a course parallel to itself. It now passes the town of Stone, and flows on through an agreeable valley diversified with a variety of elegant parks and villas. Among these the inclosures which adorn the mansion of Earl Talbot, at Ingestrie, the ornamental buildings and plantation of Shuckbergh, and the wild park of Wolsey bordering on the chase of Cannock, are most remarkable for the beauty and romantic character of their scenery. The little bridge of Wolsey, which leads from the park, across the river, is one of the most sequestered and interesting spots in England. The Trent, continuing its progress from hence, is intersected at different points by the canals, which are carried over it by means of very noble aqueducts. As it approaches Derbyshire, it forms a number of small islands, and upon reaching the confines of that county, sweeps rapidly to the north, and becomes the boundary between it and Staffordshire till its junction with the

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the river Dove. After this, crossing Derbyshire, it runs through the counties of Nottingham and Lincoln, and at last pours its waters into the Humber, about 40 miles beneath Gainsborough, to which place it is navigable by vessels of considerable tonnage.

The river next in importance to the Trent, in Staffordshire, and which joins it near the town of Burton, is the *Dove*. It takes its rise among the hills in the moorlands, near the points where the three counties of Stafford, Derby, and Chester, meet. The Dove has much of the quality and appearance of those rivers in Wales which flow from a mountainous origin. Generally speaking, its scenery is not less romantic than that of any river in England. From the great declivity of its channel, its waters flow with uncommon rapidity. In some places it dashes precipitately over rugged rocks, shaded with foliage. In others it is distinguished by gentle cascades. Not far from its source it flows through the beautifully sequestered dell of Dove Dale, embosomed among bold projecting precipices, whose lofty tops are covered with trees. Emerging from its hollow bed, under the pyramidal mountain of *Thorpe cloud*, it receives the *Manifold*. This latter river rising near the origin of the Dove, after a very serpentine course of several miles, sinks into the ground to the south of Ecton hill, and rises again at Ham, not far from its junction with the Dove. During its subterraneous transit, this river is joined by the *Hamps*, or *Hanse*, which also flows for a considerable way in the hollow bowels of the earth. Increased by the accession of these rivers, the Dove passes beneath a long picturesque bridge situated in a most romantic spot about a mile above the village of Ashborne, one of the most delightful in England, whether we regard the charms of its situation, or the select society by which it is inhabited. From thence the river meanders along in a winding direction through a narrow valley agreeably diversified by a variety of elegant seats and hamlets. The fertile meadows on each side are covered with a profusion of sheep and cattle, which here feed on the finest pasturage in the county. At one part of this vale the

town of Rochester is seen, and a short distance below it the Chafnet formed by the confluence of two moorland streams, near Leek, pours its waters into those of the Dove. Arriving at Uttoxeter, the vale expands greatly on each side of the river. As it approaches Sudbury, however, the banks are again enveloped by the wild wooded hills of Needwood forest and the ancient domain of Lord Vernon. Once more the hills recede and exhibit an open plain, distinguished only by the bold eminence on which the celebrated ruins of Tutbury castle present themselves with venerable pride to the view of the traveller. Meandering round the base of this hill, the river soon after falls into the Trent, being first intersected by the canals of this county between which and Derbyshire it forms the boundary during the whole of its course.

The *Tame* is another river of considerable size flowing into the Trent during its passage through this county. It springs from several sources in the vicinity of Walsall and Coleshill which latter place forms a portion of an isolated district, of Warwickshire; proceeding from hence it takes at first, a direction almost directly east, entering Warwickshire near Aston juxta Birmingham. Here it begins to bend more to the north, and at last flows decidedly in that direction through Tamworth which place it again enters Staffordshire. The banks of this river are much less fruitful in scenery than the rivers hitherto described. Its junction with the Trent takes place at the point where that river reaches the confines of Derbyshire. The *Tame* derives its name from the nature of its stream which is exceedingly slow and placid.

The *Blithe* which falls into the Trent near Kings Bromley may also be reckoned among the more considerable rivers of this county. It rises in the neighbourhood of Watley Moor in the northern district. Its line of direction is nearly parallel to the Trent. No scenery worthy of particular notice, except Lord Bagot's seat, and the finely wooded park of Blithfield, is found to decorate its banks. The Sow from Eccleshall, and the

Penk, from the vicinity of Somerford, forming a junction below Stafford, proceed together to Tixall, where they likewise precipitate themselves into the Trent.

The other rivers of Staffordshire, deserving notice in this work, and not pouring their waters into the Trent, are the Stour, and the Dane. The former, which rises in Warwickshire, may be considered by some as properly belonging to that county. The latter has its origin near the source of the Dove; but flowing in an opposite direction, becomes the boundary between this county and Cheshire for upwards of ten miles.

CANALS. The deficiency of navigable rivers in Staffordshire, and the disadvantages of an inland situation under such circumstances for the purposes of trade, are amply counterbalanced by the number and extent of its canals. Indeed, no district perhaps in the world is more nobly supplied with this cheap and easy method, of distributing its own productions, and receiving those of others, than the county we are now describing. To detail the numerous benefits arising from canals, even did the limits of our work permit it, would be a mere waste of time and patience, as we presume every individual, who pretends to reason on commercial questions, is already aware of them. We shall content ourselves, therefore, with simply observing in regard to this point, that without the aid of artificial navigation it would be impossible that the interior portions of the country could participate in the advantages arising from our foreign trade, or contribute much for the purposes of exportation.

The *Grand Trunk Canal*, so called in reference to the analogy subsisting between its relative situation, and that of the main artery of the human body, to the lesser branches, was planned and executed, to the period of his death, by the celebrated Mr. Brindley. This great engineer, whose genius alone, unaided by education, raised him to the highest distinction, in a profession for which he was not originally designed had previously been engaged by the duke of Bridgewater in the construction of those canals which have rendered the name

of that nobleman so eminent in the history of this species of navigation. When the corporation of Liverpool, therefore, employed Mr. Taylor of Manchester, and Mr. Eyles of Liverpool, to take surveys with the view of determining the practicability of opening a free communication, between the Humber and the Mersey, Mr. Brindley entered upon a similar project under the patronage of the marquis of Stafford and lord Anson. The two plans being laid before the public, both were found to agree in the practicability of the scheme, but differed very materially in the line of direction to be followed, and the manner of putting them into execution. The former gentlemen proposed to terminate the canal in the navigable river Weaver at Winsford bridge, and the latter, in the duke of Bridgewater's canal at Preston-brook. Mr. Brindley's plan was preferred apparently on reasonable grounds, as it afforded a direct communication with Manchester without the intervention of a single lock.*

By the grand trunk navigation, the three ports of Bristol, Liverpool, and Hull, are united. After crossing Cheshire, it enters this county near Lawton. At a short distance from thence is the Harecastle tunnel, where the canal runs under ground for more than a mile. From this place it proceeds by Newcastle, Stone, and Weston, through many other intermediate towns and villages, into the Trent at Wilden, in Derbyshire. In its passage through Staffordshire, this canal generally follows a course parallel to that river, which it intersects at different points. The whole extent of the main trunk is 91 miles. From its greatest elevation at Harecastle the fall of water on the northern side is 326 feet, and on the southern 316. The former part is furnished with 35 locks, and the latter with 40. The common breadth of this canal is 29 feet at the top, and 16 at the bottom, and the usual depth is four feet and a half. In the part from Wilden to Burton, however, and from Middleswich to Preston on the hill, it is 31 feet broad at the top, 18 at the bottom, and five and a half feet in depth.

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* Aikin's History of Manchester, p. 117, 118.

The chief branch leading from this canal, strikes off at Hay-wood, near the confluence of the Sow with the river Trent. In its way to the Severn, which it joins not far from Bewdley, it flows past the towns of Penkridge, and Wolverhampton. The Coventry and Oxford canal leaves the Grand Trunk at Fradley-heath, and proceeds by Whittington, to Fazeley. Near the latter place a cut is made, which runs to Birmingham and the collieries in the neighbourhood of Wednesbury. The Wirley and Essington canal commences at a place called Wirley Bark, and passes through the Oldfield, over Essington-wood, and Snead commons, across the road from Wednesfield to Bloxwich. From hence it goes on the south side of the town, in a direct line to Birchill. It likewise passes through Lanehead, in the neighbourhood of Perry Hall, to Wednesfield, where it joins the Birmingham canal. The branches are one from near Wolverhampton to Stow-heath, another into Ashmore park, which runs off at Poole Hayes, and a third likewise, going into Ashmore park from Lapley Hayes.

The Birmingham canal begins at Birmingham, and proceeds to Wilsden Green and Smethwick, by Blue Gates, West Bromwich, Oldbury, Church Lane, Tipton, and Bilston, through Wolverhampton and thence into the Staffordshire and Worcester canal, being altogether a course of 22 miles. Out of this canal, a cut or branch passes over Ryders Green to the collieries of Wednesbury. Another commences about a mile from the town of Dudley, near the engines which are next Netherton Hall, and runs across Knowle Brook, along Dudley, Woodside, through Urchill coppice, and Brierly hill coppice, to Blackdelft. Taking a large circuit round the church of Brierly-hill, it crosses Brittle Lane, and falls into a canal on the left of Brockmore Green, which arises in a large reservoir of water at Pensetts chace. It thence passes almost in a straight line to Wordsley, over the high-road from Stourbridge to Hampton, and across the river Stour, into the Severn and Trent junction canal. At the elbow and confluence of the Stour

with the Smestall, not far from Stourton, another branch goes off to the left, by Woollaston, Holloway and Sots Hole, and thence into the river Stour at the extremity of the town of Stourbridge.

Sir Nigel Gresley's canal extends from the Grand Trunk, at Newcastle-under-line, to the coal-mines in Apedale. The proprietors became bound by the act, granted in 1775, enabling them to form it, to deliver coals at Newcastle-under-line at the price of five shillings per ton, for the period of twenty-one years, and at five and six-pence, for a similar term further. They are empowered to make as many new cuts as may be requisite for the use of the collieries. A constant stock must be kept at their wharf, near the town above mentioned.

At Huddlesford, a branch has been extended from the Coventry canal, by Brown hills over Cannock-heath, to join the Wirley and Essington canal. On the west-side of Cannock-heath, a smaller branch goes to the south by Walsall wood to the lime-works at Hayhead. The whole length of this extensive canal, and its branches, is thirty four miles and a half, having two hundred and sixty-four feet fall from Cannock to Huddlesford. The canal, which connects the Dudley canal with that of Birmingham, is called the Dudley extension canal. It runs off from the Dudley canal near Netherton, and making a bend to the south-west, to avoid the high ground, arrives at Windmill End. Here it takes a south-east direction, passes through Comes Wood, by Hales Owen, at the foot of the Leasowes, rendered so celebrated by the taste and muse of Shennstone. The course of this canal is ten miles and five furlongs, in which short course, there are two tunnels, one at Combes wood, and another at Hales Owen. The latter is nearly two miles in length.

LAKES and SPRINGS. The lakes of this county are neither numerous, nor of much importance. The principal one is that of Aqualate, which measures 1848 yards in length, and 672 in breadth. Ladford Pool is said to comprehend about sixty

acres. The others are of far less extent and consequence. Dr. Plot informs us, that there are several rocky subterraneous passages in different parts, which receive the waters that pour from the hills after violent rains. The same author speaks of a spring in the parish of Caverswall, which issued forth with so full a stream, that it turned a mill, less than a bow-shot from its source. Another which runs plentifully from under a rock to the west of a small rivulet called the Tene, is stated to produce small bones of different sizes, most of them like the bones of Sparrows, and very young chickens.

Salt springs are found in various places. The most important ones are situated in the parish of Weston. The salt produced from them is as white and good as any in England. Here are also a few sulphureous springs. That near Codsall was formerly famous for the cure of leprosies. At present it is used with effect, as a remedy for scabs and the itch. St. Erasmus's well, between Ingestre and Stafford, has similar properties. A gallon of water from this well will yield three hundred grains of sediment, whereof 272 are salt. The water of that at Willoughby is clear as crystal, but renders the sides of the glasses oily, and of a bright yellow-colour. Contrary to most waters, it leaves nothing behind even from the evaporation of several gallons. Its oil is so extremely volatile, that, when distilled, it comes over the helm upon the first heat, and is always in the receiver before a drop of water appears. In Dr. Plot's time this well was in high repute for its medicinal virtues, which that naturalist attributed to its balsamic qualities, and the great subtilty and volatility of its oil of sulphur.

MINERALS. The mineral productions of Staffordshire, are numerous and valuable. Upwards of 50,000 acres have been ascertained to contain an almost inexhaustible store of coal near enough the surface of the ground to be easily raised. From the earliest times to the present day, the consumption does not exceed one-tenth of the whole. In the south division of the county,

county, the coal district extends in length from the interior of Cannock heath to the neighbourhood of Stourbridge, and in breadth from Wolverhampton to Walsall. The same mineral is likewise very abundant towards the north, in the neighbourhood of Newcastle and the Potteries, Lane-end, Hollybrush, Cheadle, and Dilborne. A very singular species called the *Peacock coal*, from the prismatic colours it exhibits, is dug up at Handley-green.* The coal strata now wrought vary from 8 to 10 or even 12 yards in thickness.

Limestone is still more abundant than coal. At Sedgeley and Dudley-castle hills, Rushall and Haywood, but above all on the north-east moorlands, and the banks of the higher parts of the Dove, this mineral exists in such immense profusion, that the greatest consumption or length of time, could scarce apparently lessen the quantity. The lime-works upon Caldon Low, and in the neighbourhood of the Weever hills, are particularly extensive. In some places this stone is of a marble quality, and susceptible of a very fine polish. In others it is chiefly composed of *Trelmintholopi*, or petrified marine substances of the animal kind, as *cardium*, *millepora*, &c. Under several of the limestone-hills, which are perforated by the canal tunnels, the workmen have hollowed out huge caverns, without removing the surface soil. Lime is carried from this county in great quantities to different towns for the purposes of building. It is also used extensively as a manure.

Iron ore is met with plentifully in every portion of the coal district. In the neighbourhood of Wednesbury, Tipton Bilston, and Sedgeley, and also west from Newcastle, it is particularly abundant, and of an excellent kind. The strata of this metal are usually ranged immediately beneath a stratum of coal. Iron works of great extent have of late years been established on the banks of the Birmingham canal, where the iron trade is rapidly increasing. We trust that the capital, spirit of enterprise, and exertions of those engaged in it, will

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* Aikin's Manchester, p. 103.

in a short time preclude the necessity of importing any considerable quantity of this valuable and useful article, from foreign countries. But iron stone is not the only metallic ore which prevails in Staffordshire. Both copper and lead ore also exist here in great plenty. A copper-mine is wrought at Mixon, in the neighbourhood of Leek; but the most important one is that of Ecton hill, near Warslow upon the estate of the duke of Devonshire; this hill likewise has a considerable vein of lead, and not far from Staunton moor, is another of the same mineral. In this division of the county, but particularly at Whiston, Oakmoor and near Cheadle, a great number of smelting and brass works are carried on.

The quarries in different districts afford very good free stone for a variety of purposes. Tixall produces an excellent and durable kind for building, which is easily raised in blocks of almost any dimensions. The same species is again found at Wrottesley, Breeewood park, Pendeford and several other places. Bilstone freestone is of a peculiarly fine grain, and fit either for mouldings, or grindstones of the finer sort, for which last purpose it is particularly well adapted. The coarser sorts of this stone are very plentiful, in the numerous quarries situated in the vicinity of Sedgeley.*

Alabaſter was formerly dug up in considerable quantities, particularly on the banks of the river Dove. At present, however, as we are informed very few of the quarries producing this species of stone are wrought, though it still exists in great plenty. In some places it is sufficiently solid, and firm of texture, to be applied to the paving of churches, the making of tables, chimney-pieces, and grave stones. The coarser kind when heated becomes so extremely soft and brittle, that it can easily be reduced to a powder by threshing. From this powder a sort of mortar was formerly made, with which the floors of houses were formed, it being when dry as hard as stone, and exceedingly durable.

Marble

Marble of various kinds is likewise a production of this county. That species, which is denominated rance-marble, is very abundant on Yelpersly Tor and the adjoining hills. It consists of a white and shining grit, streaked with red, and takes so good a polish, that it has frequently been used for chimney pieces and monuments. Grey marble is found in considerable plenty at Stansop; and at Powke hill, not far from Bentley hill, there is a good supply of a jet black colour, but so hard that it is difficult to raise or work it. When burnt, however, it makes very fine emery.

Clays of every description are abundant. At Amblecot is a clay of a dark bluish-colour of which are made the best glass; house pots of any in England. Great quantities are sent to different parts of the kingdom, and glass houses attracted by it have been raised in the neighbourhood; potter's clay of several sorts, is found here, particularly in the vicinity of Newcastle-under line, where the potteries are chiefly carried on. Yellow and red oker are among the earths used for colouring and painting, which are found in Staffordshire. A blue clay at Darlaston near Wednesbury is sold to glovers to make an ash colour. A black chalk is also found in the beds of grey marble in Langley close, and also a fine roddish earth under a rock near Himley hall, which is little inferior to the red chalk of France,

AGRICULTURE and PRODUCTS. The farms of Staffordshire are of all sizes from twenty acres to five hundred; but within these few years, the number of small ones has very much diminished. The greater proportion of them are held upon leases of twenty-one years. Some, however, for a much shorter period likewise exist. A few in the neighbourhood of gentlemen's seats are rented only from year to year, from an idea entertained by the proprietors that a lease renders the tenant too independent. The justness of this opinion seems to us extremely questionable, whether considered in a political or agricultural light. Rents are usually paid in money. Indeed Mr. Pitt says he never knew or heard of an instance to the contrary,

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Something like personal services, however, are still kept up; for it is no uncommon obligation on the tenant to perform one day's team work in the year for his landlord, and to keep him a dog. The average rental of land in this county is rather above 25s. per acre, varying in whole farms from 15s. to 24. and upwards. A considerable part of the grounds have been exonerated from tithes, by purchase from the tithe holders, but a far greater proportion of them still continue liable to that heavy and nefarious tax upon the efforts and exertions of human industry.

The cultivated lands of this county are nearly all inclosed; not more than 1000 acres still remaining open. The fences in the southern parts are chiefly raised from quicksets, among which the white thorn is most approved. The following is the manner of forming new inclosures; they are first fenced with post and rail, and then a mound or bank of earth is thrown up nearly to the height of the lower rail. Within this bank, and a little above the natural level of the grounds, the quicksets are planted, which must be carefully cleared from weeds, for two or three years. By this means a good fence is soon raised, and of consequence the land greatly improved in value. The size of the inclosures in this county vary from smaller to twenty or thirty acres.

The vegetable products of Staffordshire, by field culture, are chiefly the following:

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| 1. Wheat, | 8. Buck-wheat, |
| 2. Rye, | 9. Hemp, |
| 3. Barley, | 10. Flax, |
| 4. Oats, | 11. Turnips, |
| 5. Beans, | 12. Potatoes, |
| 6. Pease, | 13. Cabbages, |
| 7. Vetches, | 14. Rape. |

To these we may add clovers, trefoils, and two or three of the real grasses. Turnip cabbage has likewise been tried as well as Sainfoin, lucerne, burnet, and the other artificial grasses.

Carrots

Carrots, and a few garden plants, are only introduced into field cultivation, by gardeners for the markets.

The major part or bulk of the sowing business is done in this county in the old broad-cast way, though drilling has likewise made considerable progress. Of the machines used for this work there are two varieties, either of which delivers several rows at a time, and may be constructed so as to deliver them at any given distance. Seed-time here generally commences in March, and ought to be finished in April; in some places, however, it hangs on through a great part of May. Respecting the system of cropping and round of crops, no general one can be laid down that will apply in all cases, as variations of soil and climate must often render deviations requisite and praise worthy. As something like system, however, is necessary to the proper management of every regular business. Mr. Pitt, in his Agricultural Survey, has given the following courses of crops, as generally practised in this county.

The stiff or strong soils of Staffordshire, under arable cultivation, says this gentleman, are of two sorts; the strong and harsh inclining to clay, and the more mild or friable marl and loam. Upon the former of these it seldom happens that any other grain, but wheat and oats, are grown. The rotation of cropping upon this land is, 1 Fallow, 2 Wheat, 3 Oats, after which it is laid down with clover, trefoil, and ray grass for one, two, or more years. Sometimes on breaking up an older turf, the course is 1 Oats, 2 Fallow, 3 Wheat, 4 Oats, and then grasses as before. On the more mild and friable loamy soil, there is 1 fallow, 2 wheat, 3 beans or pease, and 4 barley or oats, when the land is laid down with clovers, &c. as mentioned above. On this species of soil beans are sown in the beginning, and oats towards the latter end, of March; barley seldom sooner than May; wheat is chiefly sown in October, but some little of it is much earlier and some later. In the neighbourhood of Eccleshall, and also near Stafford castle, there are a few fields in which a vein of incomparable marl is found so near the surface

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of the ground that the farmers can easily plow through it. Here good crops of wheat are produced by fallow alone, without manure, so that the dung is usually reserved for the next season, by which means two crops, one of beans and another of barley, is afterwards secured; whereas, when it is placed on the wheat fallow, these crops are seldom productive. This circumstance is certainly deserving of attention as a real improvement, and capable of extensive application.

On the light sandy and gravelly soils adapted to turnips, the order of cropping is the same with the Norfolk system, which is 1 turnips, 2 barley, 3 clover, 4 wheat. The chief time for sowing turnips is from old to new Midsummer, but some are sown both earlier and later. The land in preparation for this crop has usually four ploughings, with sufficient harrowings between. The first ploughing takes place before Christmas, the second in March, the third in May, and the fourth at sowing. The manure in ordinary use is dung or lime, or both, or a compost of dung and soil. In the vicinity of large towns the dung of such towns is frequently used. Near Birmingham, in particular, the parings and shavings of bone and hoof dust are also frequently applied with good success. Some farmers observing that this system of the same crop every four years is hard tillage and exhausts the ground, give their fields two years rest under grass, which makes the course 1 turnips, 2 barley, 3 clover, 4 pasture, and 5 wheat. A few totally omit the growth of wheat on light land. Their system is 1 turnips, 2 barley, and seeds pastured for two or more years, and then sometimes oats, on breaking up the turf; or 1 turnips, 2 pease, and 3 barley and seeds as before. As in these courses, the great staple, wheat, is neglected; the following order is not uncommon upon land that is continued some years in pasture: 1 oats, 2 wheat, 3 turnips, 4 barley, and pasture for several years.

The hay harvest in this county is mostly in July. On highly forced lands in the neighbourhood of large towns, the meadow grass is somewhat earlier than the artificial grasses, but upon regular

regular farms the latter generally takes the precedence. Staffordshire cannot be considered as a feeding district, at least not in proportion to Leicester. Many gentlemen, however, as well as farmers, feed a considerable number both of cattle and sheep. Calves and hogs are kept upon most farms. More cattle as well as sheep are reared, than are necessary for the consumption of the county. Great numbers, therefore, are sold to dealers who drive them towards the Metropolis.

The cattle of this county are generally of the long-horned breed, the stock of which has been gradually improving for these several years. The sheep are of various breeds. The Grey-faced, without horns, which are natives of Cannock heath. Sutton Colfield and the adjoining commons, are of a moderate size, with fine wool closely and compactly covering the carcase. Those of Cannock, in particular, bear a strong resemblance to the South Down, and are doubtless originally from the same common stock. The black-faced horned sheep are peculiar to the commons situated on the west of the county, towards Drayton in Shropshire. These have black and long legs, are light in the carcase, but certainly capable of great improvement. A white-faced breed without horns, and having long or combing wool, occupy the eastern parts of the moorlands. Upon the limestone bottom they are strong and heavy, and are thought the most valuable of any on waste land within the county. The breed on the west part of this district, and on the grit and gravel bottom, are a much inferior sort to those on the calcareous ground, and seem to have originated from the ancient moorland breed, continued without attention.* They are of a mixed kind, some having white and some grey or dark faces, with legs usually of the same colour. Besides these breeds a variety of others have been introduced. The old and new Leicester are particularly common on the pasture grounds in different districts. These have been crossed in various shapes

* Aikin's Manchester, p. 102.

shaped so as to produce a great diversity of flocks, possessing peculiar characteristics, and superior or inferior according to the judgement with which they have been managed or bred.*

Kitchen garden stuffs are sufficiently abundant, but fruits fall much short of the consumption of the county. At Tetenhall a peculiar species of pear is raised, which shall be described particularly in our account of that parish.

TIMBER PLANTATIONS, and WOODLANDS. This county, notwithstanding the vast number of trees which have been cut down within these thirty years, still continues well stocked with wood of every description. The estate of lord Bagot, in the neighbourhood of Abbots Bromley, comprehends several hundred acres of the finest and ripest oaks perhaps in the kingdom. Many of them carry timber to the height of sixty or seventy feet. Some in the park around the mansion house, even contain 400 feet timber each, and are of considerable antiquity, being mentioned by Dr. Plot, as full grown in 1696. The succession woods and young plantations here are likewise extremely flourishing. The estate of Chillingworth may be ranked next to this, for the value of its woods, within Staffordshire. The woods at Beaudesert, the seat of the Earl of Uxbridge, are scarcely less extensive. This mansion is situated on the north boundary of Cannock forest, and is one of the most superb and magnificent in the vicinity. Large quantities of well grown timber cover the pleasure grounds and property of lord Dudley, at Llimley and its neighbourhood. The estate of Teddesley has very considerable plantations. Mansley wood is a large coppice of very fine oak. Wrottesley contains several woods of ripe well grown timber, and also extensive plantations of a later growth. Fisherwick, Sandwell park, Enville and Milton, display very fine trees of every kind in great abundance. The bishop's woods, in the vicinity of Eccleshall, are said to contain 1800 acres. Besides these there are a variety of other plantations and valuable clumps of timber scattered throughout this

* Pitt's Survey, p. 182.

this county. For a more particular account of the whole, the reader may consult Mr. Pitt's Agricultural Survey.

WASTE and UNIMPROVED LANDS. The extent of lands lying in a state of nature in this county is very great. Many thousand acres in different places remain wholly uncultivated, serving merely as pasturage for a few sheep or deer. Considering the increasing state of the country, with respect to population, this is certainly a matter worthy of attention. Mr. Pitt computes the wastes or commons to contain in all, at least 100,000 acres, which, if improved, which could easily be effected, would at a moderate calculation add 1,450,000*l.* to the national capital.

The chief waste districts in the southern parts are, Cannock heath, and Sutton Coldfield, together with Swindon, Wombourne, and Fradley commons. In the north are Morredge, Wetley-moor, Stanton moor, Hollington heath, Caversham common, and Needwood forest, which last, however, has been lately in great part inclosed and cultivated. Many other unimproved spots of lesser extent exist in every hundred.

ROADS, BRIDGES, &c. The public roads of Staffordshire are in general good, but many of the private ones are abundantly indifferent. With respect to bridges, tunnels, and other works of that kind, they are sufficiently plentiful and in numerous instances do great honour to the county. The more remarkable of them will find a place in the sequel.

MANUFACTURES AND COMMERCE. Manufactures of various kinds are carried on to a great extent in Staffordshire, particularly in the southern districts. These chiefly consist in hardware articles, nails, glass toys, japanned goods, and potter's ware, with productions in cotton, silk, leather, woollen and linen. The manufacture of glass is most considerable in the vicinity of Stourbridge, where a variety of very lofty and spacious glass-houses have been erected. The potteries are situated rather towards the north division of the county, occupying an extent of ten miles. They have acquired no small degree of celebrity
from

from the ingenious inventions of Mr. Wedgewood. Formerly the quantity of goods made at these potteries was prodigious. Of late years, however, their produce has been much diminished in consequence of the continuance of the war.* Wolverhampton and the many populous villages in its neighbourhood, are distinguished for their manufacture of locks, which are esteemed equal to any in England; buckles, steel toys, and particularly watch-chains, are also among the famed productions of this town. The staple manufacture of Walsall, and its vicinity, consists chiefly of shoe buckles, and clasps, to which may be added sadler's ironmongery. Vast quantities of nails are made in many of the country parishes. Women and children are employed in this department, as well as the men. Bilston furnishes a variety of plated, lackered, japanned, and even enamelled goods. The gun trade of Wednesbury is by no means inconsiderable. At Darlaston, and Willenhall, as well as in the country around, tobacco and snuff boxes are finished in various ways. Stafford, and its neighbourhood, displays a number of articles in the cutlery and leather trade. The hat manufacture is also carried on here, and in some other towns in the county on a large scale. Tin and brass are among the common productions in Staffordshire. The cotton manufactures at Rochester, Fazley. Tamworth, Burton, and Tutbury, are very considerable. So likewise is the silk trade of Leek, and the tape manufactures of Cheadle and Teyn. The woollen manufactory is comparatively trifling, most of the raw wool grown in this county being sold into the clothing and stocking districts. The making of linen is a branch of trade mostly confined to private families for their own use.†

PECULIAR CUSTOMS. It is not a little remarkable, that the original calendar of the Norwegians and Danes, still obtains in this county under the appellation of the *Staffordshire Clogg*. This almanack is nothing more, as its name imports, than a
square

* Pitt's Survey of Staffordshire, p. 236, 237.

† Ib. p. 235.

square piece of wood, box, fir, or oak, which contains three months on each of the four edges, and has the number of days in them expressed by notches. The first day is marked by a notch with a patulous stroke inclining from it, and every seventh, by one longer than those intervening. Issuing from the notches are the symbols of several saints to denote their festivals. Over against many of them, on the left hand, appear several marks symbolical of the golden number or cycle of the moon. If this number is under 5 it is denoted by so many points; if five, by a hooked line drawn from the notch representing the ancient sigle of V. When above five, and under ten, the hooked line or V has one or more points appended to it. These points are now continued over it, and a stroke crosses it for ten. At nineteen it is intersected by two strokes. This instrument, however, is not always alike either in form or marks. Olaus Wormius, in his *Fasti Danici*, exhibits two, one hexagonal, and having an intermixture of Runic characters, and another flat, but divided into six columns, and possessing other peculiarities. A third with two sides in six divisions was found in a castle at Bretagne. Engravings of this calendar, somewhat different from each other, will be found in Dr. Plot's *Natural History of the county*, and in Gough's *Camden*.*

MARKET TOWNS AND PARISHES. The following is a list of the Market Towns, with the Parishes severally contained in each Hundred :

MARKET TOWNS ANCIENT AND MODERN.

Market Days.

- | | |
|----------------------------------|------------|
| 1. Stafford the county town..... | Saturday. |
| 2. Lichfield | Friday. |
| 3. Wolverhampton..... | Wednesday. |
| 4. Walsall..... | Tuesday |
| 5. Burton on Trent..... | Thursday. |
| 6. Uttoxeter..... | Wednesday. |

VOL. XIII.

B b b

7. Nercastle

* Gough's *Camden*, Vol. II. p. 499.

Market Towns.

7. Newcastle.....Monday.
8. Leek.....Wednesday.
9. Stone.....Tuesday.
10. Cheadle.....Saturday.
11. Eccleshall.....Friday.
12. Rudgeley (small note).....Tuesday.
13. Tamworth.....Saturday.
14. Tutbury (small note).....Tuesday.
15. Abbot's Bromley ditto.....Tuesday.
16. Breedwood (very trifling).....Friday.
17. Penkridge.....Tuesday.
18. Cannock—declined.....
19. Betley—declined.....
20. Wednesbury, (for fowls, butter, &c.).....Saturday.
21. Burslem.....
22. Hanley-green... } In the Potteries, now considerable markets
23. Lane-end..... } for provisions.....
24. Longnor, (fowls, butter, &c.).....Wednesday.

PARISHES IN THE HUNDRED OF TOTMANSLOW.

- | | |
|--------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. Alstonefield. | 16. Draycots in the Moors. |
| 2. Alverton | 17. Endon. |
| 3. Bagnal. | 18. Elkstone. |
| 4. Blore. | 19. Ellaston. |
| 5. Bradley in the Moors. | 20. Flash. |
| 6. Bramshall. | 21. Gratwick. |
| 7. Butterton. | 22. Grindon. |
| 8. Caulton. | 23. Horton. |
| 9. Caldon. | 24. Ilam. |
| 10. Caverswall. | 25. Ipstones. |
| 11. Cheadle. | 26. Kingstone. |
| 12. Croxden. | 27. Kingsley. |
| 13. Checkley. | 28. Leek. |
| 14. Chedleton. | 29. Longnor. |
| 15. Dilholme. | 30. Leigh. |
| | 31. Mathfield. |

- | | |
|----------------|----------------|
| 31. Mathfield. | 36. Sheen. |
| 32. Oakover. | 37. Waistow. |
| 33. Onecote. | 38. Wetton. |
| 34. Meerbrook. | 39. Waterfall. |
| 35. Rocester. | 40. Uttoxeter. |

PYREHILL HUNDRED.

- | | |
|---------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Abbot's Bromley. | 25. Muckleston. |
| 2. Adbaston. | 26. Maer. |
| 3. Ashley. | 27. Madeley. |
| 4. Audley. | 28. Milwich. |
| 5. Blithfield. | 29. Marston. |
| 6. Barlaston. | 30. Newcastle. |
| 7. Blurton. | 31. Norton in the Moors. |
| 8. Betley. | 32. Stoke on Trent. |
| 9. Burslem. | 33. Stafford. |
| 10. Bucknall. | 34. Stowe. |
| 11. Bidulph. | 35. Sandon. |
| 12. Colwich. | 36. Stone. |
| 13. Colton. | 37. Seighford. |
| 14. Chebsey. | 38. Standon. |
| 15. Ellenhall. | 39. Swinnerton. |
| 16. Eccleshall. | 40. Ronton. |
| 17. Broughton. | 41. Tixall. |
| 18. Fradswell. | 42. Thursfield. |
| 19. Fulford. | 43. Talk on the Hill. |
| 20. Gayton. | 44. Trentham. |
| 21. High Offley. | 45. Whitmore. |
| 22. Hanley. | 46. Woolstanton. |
| 23. Keel. | 47. Weston on Trent. |
| 24. Lane-end. | |

CUDDLESTONE HUNDRED.

- | | |
|-------------|-------------|
| 1. Acton. | 3. Brewood. |
| 2. Barwich. | 4. Bednall. |

- | | |
|----------------------------|--------------------------|
| 5. Blimhill. | 15. Norbury. |
| 6. Bradley Juxta Stafford. | 16. Penkridge. |
| 7. Cannock. | 17. Rudgeley. |
| 8. Coppenhall. | 18. Sherif Hales. |
| 9. Castle Church. | 19. Stretton. |
| 10. Dunston. | 20. Shareshall. |
| 11. Forton. | 21. Weston under Lizard. |
| 12. Gnosshall. | 22. Wheaton Aston. |
| 13. Houghton. | 23. Church Eaton. |
| 14. Lapley. | |

OFFLOW HUNDRED.

- | | |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. Alrewas. | 23. Lichfield St. Chad's. |
| 2. Armitage. | 24. Lichfield St. Michael's |
| 3. Aldrige. | 25. Marchington. |
| 4. Burton on Trent. | 26. Maveston Ridware. |
| 5. Barton under Needwood. | 27. Newborough. |
| 6. Bloxwich. | 28. Norton under Cannock. |
| 7. Barr. | 29. Pipe Ridware. |
| 8. Clifton Campville. | 30. Pelsall. |
| 9. Drayton Basset. | 31. Rolleston. |
| 10. Darlaston. | 32. Rowley Regis. |
| 11. Elford. | 33. Rushall. |
| 12. Farewell. | 34. Smethwick. |
| 13. Hanbury. | 35. Shenstone. |
| 14. Hamstall Ridware. | 36. Statfold. |
| 15. Harbourne. | 37. Tutbury. |
| 16. Hammerwich. | 38. Tatenhall. |
| 17. Haselour. | 39. Thorpe Constantine. |
| 18. Harleston. | 40. Tamworth. |
| 19. Hints. | 41. Tipton. |
| 20. Handsworth. | 42. Wichnor. |
| 21. Longdon. | 43. Whittington. |
| 22. King's Bromley. | 44. Wigington. |
| | 45. Weeford. |

- | | |
|------------------|--------------------|
| 45. Weeford. | 49. Wednesbury. |
| 46. Walsall. | 50. West Bromwich. |
| 47. Wednesfield. | 51. Yoxall. |
| 48. Willenhall. | |

SEISDON HUNDRED.

- | | |
|------------------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Amblecott & Brierly-Hill. | 11. Kinfare. |
| 2. Areley Over. | 12. Kingswinford. |
| 3. Bilston. | 13. Patteringham. |
| 4. Broome. | 14. Patteshall. |
| 5. Bobbington. | 15. Penn. |
| 6. Bushbury. | 16. Sedgeley. |
| 7. Codshall. | 17. Tettenhall. |
| 8. Clent. | 18. Tryshull. |
| 9. Enville. | 19. Wolverhampton. |
| 10. Himley. | 20. Wombourne. |

Parishes.

Total. Tolmanslow Hundred	40
—— Pyrehill Hundred	47
—— Cuddleston Hundred.....	23
—— Offlow Hundred.....	51
—— Seisdon Hundred	20

Total Parishes in the County.....	181
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OFFLOW HUNDRED.

BURTON UPON TRENT. This town is situated on the north bank of the river Trent, from which it derives the latter portion of its name. It is a borough and market town, containing, according to the parliamentary returns of 1801, 833 houses, and 4359 inhabitants, of whom 546 were employed in various branches of trade. The market is held on Thursday, and is well supplied with all the requisite articles of human food.

Burton upon Trent is undoubtedly of very great antiquity. At an early period of the Saxon dominion in Britain, it was a town of considerable note. In the annals of that people the

name is written *Byratun*, which is synonymous to *Buraton*, or *Buryton*, a word used by them to denote places of Roman or British origin. Hence it may be inferred that some eminent person of one or other of these nations possessed a *Bury*,* or chief mansion or manor house, in the neighbourhood prior to the period of the Saxon conquest. This opinion, however, rests upon no authority, but that of probable conjecture, there being no records of this town till the time of the celebrated *St. Modwen*, called also *Modwenna*, *Mowenna*, and *Mudwin*. This lady, who flourished in the ninth century, had long been Abbess of a monastery in Ireland, which having been destroyed, she removed to England in the reign of king Ethelwolf. That monarch, pitying her misfortunes, bestowed upon her lands sufficient for the endowment of two religious houses, in one of which she resided for some years. After this she retired to the island of Andresey, an insulated meadow situated opposite to the present church in Burton. This island was sometimes called *Mudwennastow*, as we are informed by Le-land† from her name, as it was Andresey, from a chapel dedicated to St. Andrew which she built upon it.‡ Upon her death she was buried here, and the following epitaph preserved by Camden, inscribed on her tomb :

Ortum Modwennae dat Hibernia Scotia finem
 Anglia dat tumulum, dat Deus astra poli
 Prima dedit vitam, sed mortem terra secunda
 Et terram terrae tertia terra dedit
 Aufert Lanfortin quam terra Conallea profert
 Felix Burtonium virginis ossa tenet.

Ireland

* See Spelman's Glossary under *Beria* or *Buris*; Somner's Saxon Dictionary under *Pyri*.

† Leil. Coll. Vol. II. p. 408.

‡ *Modwenna* is said to have founded a variety of other chapels and monasteries in different parts of England, as well as in Scotland and Ireland. Her piety and influence with the divine power were so famous, that king Ethelwolfe sent his son Alfred to her to be cured of a disease reckoned incurable, which,

Ireland gave Medwen birth ; England a grave.
 As Scotland death, and God her soul shall save
 The first land life, the second death did give
 The third in earth her earthly part receive
 Lanfortin takes whom Connel's country owns
 And happy Burton holds the virgin's bones.†

The abbey of Burton was founded and endowed by Wulfric, Ulfric, or Alfric Earl of Mercia, about the year 1002. This nobleman long held the high situation of chief Counsellor of State, to king Ethelred, surnamed the *Unready*. He is characterised, however, by several of our historians as a traitor on many occasions, both to his king and country, and was slain in an engagement with the Danish invaders, in the year 1010. The lands which Wulfric bestowed upon this monastery seem to have been very considerable. The book of Abingdon has the following passage relative to this point. "A servant of king Ethelred named Ulfric Spot built the abbey at Burton, and gave it all† his paternal estate worth 700*l*., and, that the ratification of this gift might stand, he gave king Ethelred 300 mancuses of gold for his confirmation, and to each bishop five mancuses, and to Alfric, archbishop of Canterbury, over and above the town of Dumbleton."‡

This gift was confirmed accordingly by the king, in the year 1004.¶ The tenor of the confirmation, as usual, was full and free, exempting the abbey and its dependencies from all exactions, duties, and services, except the *trinodas necessitas*, the erection of fortresses and bridges, the reparation of high ways, and the repelling of invasions. In this charter, however, several places

B b b 4

are

which, happily for her own fame and the benefit of England, she very soon accomplished. Edith, sister to Ethelred, was a nun under her. Holinshed, B. VI. c. ii. p. 144. Gale's Annals, Vol. III. lib. 6. p. 226. Lel. Coll. Vol. II. p. 573.

* Tyrconnel.

† Gough's Camden, Vol. II. p. 497.

‡ Mr. Shaw says, the book of Abingdon may be correct as to the value given, but it was not his whole estate: Shaw's Staffordshire, Vol. I. p. 8.

¶ This place had been wrongfully taken from the church of Abingdon, by Wulfric's predecessors. Monasticon, Vol. I. p. 265.

§ Monasticon, Vol. I. p. 266.

are omitted, which are mentioned in the will of Ulfric. By an abstract of Mr. Shaw's from various parts of Domesday, the value of the possessions of this monastery, at the time of the conquest, appear to have been estimated at 36*l.* 15*s.* of annual rent. A variety of charters were subsequently granted in its favour, by different monarchs, bishops, and others, in which its original privileges were confirmed, and many new ones added. The abbots were empowered to hold a weekly market, and had besides the privileges of collecting toll, and instituting fairs at different periods of the year. Some of them occasionally sat in Parliament, and were extremely beneficial to the abbey. After the dissolution, this monastery was constituted a collegiate church, dedicated to Christ and St. Mary, but continued to enjoy this distinction only for the short space of four years. The seal of the college is one of the most beautiful specimens of that species of sculpture extant in England. It is a representation of our Saviour and his disciples at the last supper, having the arms of Wulfric, the founder of the abbey, at the bottom. The words on the margin are in Latin, and signify "the common seal of the dean and chapter of the collegiate church of Christ, at Burton upon Trent." An excellent copy of this seal will be found in Shaw's history of Staffordshire, on a plate contributed by the earl of Uxbridge*

The buildings of this abbey appear to have been very extensive and superb. Mr. Erdeswicke, in his Survey of Staffordshire, says that it must have been "a very goodly one for the ruins be very large."† The dimensions of the church were 228 feet in length, and 52 feet and a half in breadth. It was adorned with a handsome tower at both ends. The other buildings were proportionally extensive. The cloisters which lay on the south side of the church measured 100 feet square. The fraytor, or common sitting room, adjoining on the same side was 96 feet in length and 30 in breadth, and the principal dormitory on the east 100 feet by ten. Besides these there
were

* Shaw's Staffordshire, p. 6, 7, 8.

† Erdeswicke's Survey, p. 22.





VIEW OF MANOR HOUSE.

From the Park.

(From the "Illustrations of the House".)

Published by the Author, 1840.

variety of other rooms and halls. Close to the buildings are two large gardens walled about, and containing a great variety of trees. Of this immense structure, only a few remains of any considerable importance can now be traced. Among these are the vestiges of the cloisters visible in the old walls, between the present church and the bowling green. On the wall are a number of Saxon ornaments. Beyond it, near the origin of the river, are some further remains of that part of the monastery, which was appropriated to the abbot for his private residence. It is now the old manor house, but, though still entire, is so much mutilated and altered by modern additions and repairs, as totally to efface the most distant resemblance of what it formerly was. The only remarkable part of it is the perfect outlines of a chapel east window, having the place of the glass and the ramifications filled up with brick and mortar. A portion of the great wall which inclosed the whole buildings and grounds around this monastery can yet likewise be discovered. The small ruins of the porter's lodge on the side next to the town, were of late years converted into a smith's forge.

Burton, we have already said, was a place of consequence in ancient times. Leland* says, it was famous, in his days, for its alabaster works, and this statement is fully confirmed by Camden.† How long these works continued to flourish is unknown, but for more than a century there has been no business of that kind carried on here, though abundance of alabaster is still to be found in the neighbourhood of Needwood forest. This town was nearly burnt to the ground in the year 1255. In the reign of Edward II. it suffered very great damage during a rebellion, incited by Thomas Earl of Lancaster, who was defeated here, and being subsequently arrested, suffered as a traitor at Pontefract. The unfortunate queen of Scots passed through Burton, when on her way from Chartley to Fotheringay castle.‡ During the contest between the House of Stuart and the Parliam-

ment

* Leland. Itin. Vol. VII. p. 36.

† Gough's Camden, Vol. II. p. 377.

‡ Magna Brit. Vol. V. p. 6.

Shaw's Staffordshire, Vol. I. p. 17.

ment it was several times taken and retaken by both parties. In the year 1643 it was plundered by the republican army, who placed a garrison in it. Prince Rupert regained it after the reduction of Lichfield, but the royalists were soon again obliged to surrender to lord Grey. Some time subsequent, when sir John Harpur, an officer in king Charles's army, was engaged in raising some fortifications, major Mollanus fell upon them with the parliament horse, and made the greater part of them prisoners. The king's army lay here under the command of lord Loughborough in 1645, at which time his majesty's head quarters were stationed at Tutbury. Some very curious letters, relative to transactions at Burton during this period, will be found in Shaw's history of the county,* which our limits do not permit us to transcribe.

The town of Burton upon Trent now consists of one principal street which runs parallel to the river, and another cutting it at right angles. In the centre stands a large brick house formed like an half H, which formerly belonged to the Everys of Egerton. The town hall is placed on the scite of the old market house, and is a neat spacious structure. Here the courts leet and all public meetings are held. Not far from hence is a very remarkable old house, adorned with a number of wooden pillars, on which a variety of curious Gothic ornaments are cut. It is generally supposed they have been brought from some other house or place of worship. Mr. Shaw seems inclined to think that this was the prebendal house during the period of the collegiate church, and gives it as his decided opinion that the pillars must have been fixed here from its first erection. A free grammar school founded and endowed by Abbot Beane in the year 1520 is situated in the north-west corner of the churchyard, and is a very respectable institution. The church is a neat edifice with a fine tower, built in 1720, when the old one dedicated to St. Modwena was pulled down. Some remains of this last are yet to be discovered in the east,
and

* Shaw's Staffordshire, p. 18.

and on the west it is marked out by a line of different coloured pavements. In the belfry of the present church lies a defaced monument, which is vulgarly supposed to be the original tomb of the founder of the abbey. This idea, however, is doubtless erroneous, and, if erected at all in honour of Ulfric, must have been the work of some of the abbots at least two hundred years after his death.* Within these few years several stone coffins have been found in the church yard.

The most entire and remarkable object in this town, deriving its origin from antiquity, is its bridge, one of the noblest fabrics of the kind in England. It consists of thirty six arches extending 515 feet, and was, according to Mr. Shaw, first erected before, or at least about, the time of the Norman conquest. In early times this bridge was placed under the care of an overseer or procurator nominated by the abbots together with the knights and justices connected with Burton who acted in the capacity of trustees. Towards the middle of it is the exact boundary of the two counties of Stafford and Derby. At one end formerly stood a chapel supposed to have been erected by Edward the second in memory of his victory over the rebel earl of Lancaster, where mass was frequently celebrated in order to collect charities to defray the expenses of repairs. A large

* Mr. Erdeswicke says that "being of alabaster it is fashioned both for armour, shield, and other things, something like our new monuments, so Edward the third's time is the oldest it can possible be, and a man would rather by the shield, for it is square at both ends, and flourished with gold both above and beneath, as the Londoners set out shields in their pageants, think it were of Edward the IV. or Henry VII. time." Erdeswicke, p. 92.

† Mr. Erdswick states this bridge to consist of 34 arches only, and he is followed by most other authors. He likewise says it was built in the reign of Henry the second, resting his opinion upon two extracts from old evidences. These evidences, however, are combated both by Mr. Shaw, and a well known correspondent in the Gentleman's Magazine, who seem to prove incontestibly that this bridge is of much older date.

Shaw's Staffordshire, p. 14. Gent. Magazine, Vol. XXI. p. 406.

large warehouse now occupies the foundation on which it stood, and intercepts the view of the town.

To the admirer of ancient buildings, this bridge cannot fail of being a very interesting object. Its piers and arches are of various forms, and almost wholly covered with lichens and mosses. These, with the trees growing immediately near it, give to the whole an air of very picturesque beauty. Three of the arches are entirely blocked up, and other five of them are only visited by the water in the time of floods.

In this town a court of requests is held for the recovery of small debts. The lord of the manor has likewise a weekly court of record called jenters' court, where pleas can be maintained to any amount. The inhabitants are exempted from being impannelled on county juries.

The chief production of Burton is its ale, which is well known and deservedly celebrated. Great quantities of it are consumed in all parts of the country, and, previous to the blockade of the continent, it formed a considerable article of exportation. In making this ale it is somewhat singular, that, contrary to the almost uniform practice of other breweries, the brewers here employ hard water in preference to soft. It is found to make a material difference in the strength of the ale. This fact is very ingeniously explained by Dr. Darwin in a letter to Mr. Pilkington, upon the supposition that some of the saccharine acid in the malt combines with the calcareous earth of hard waters, and forms a sort of mineral sugar, which, like true sugar, is convertible into spirits. A curious manufactory of screws for driving into wood has been long established here. Hats and cottons are likewise among the more considerable articles made in this town.

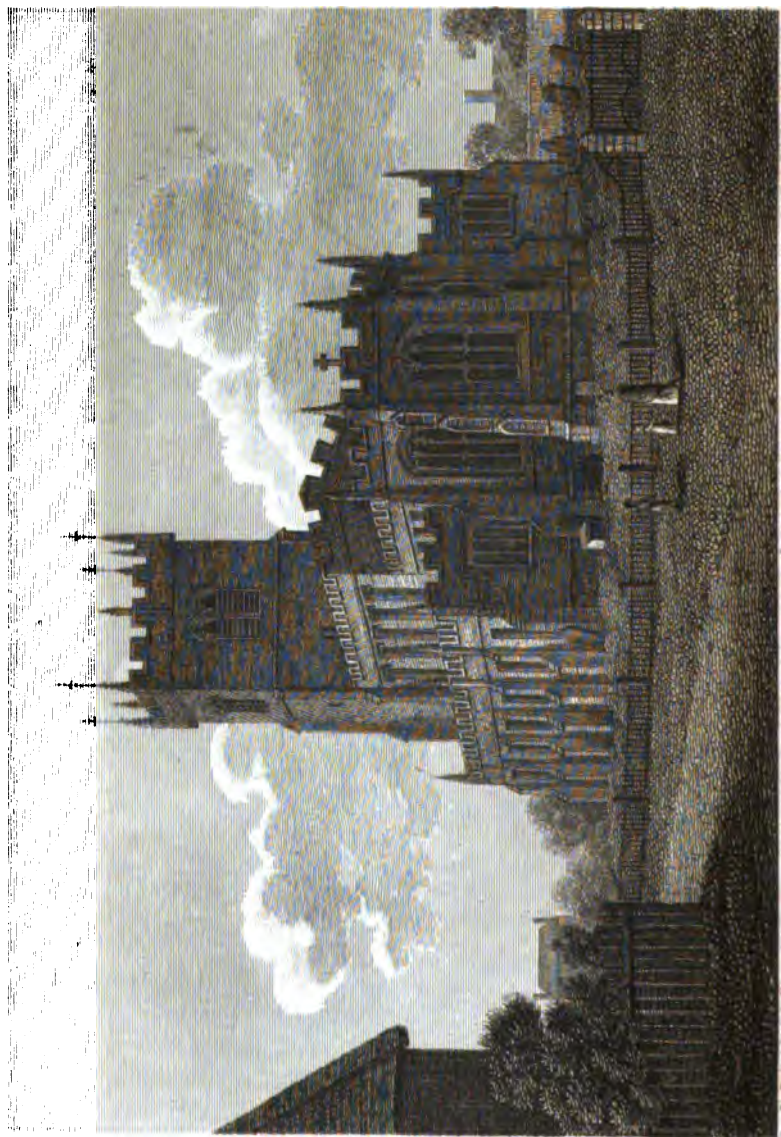
TATENHILL,

Is an extensive parish and village situated about two miles west from Burton on the eastern side of Needwood forest. The vil-

†

lage





VIEW OF THE CHURCH.

Hand-colored by
E. W. Heath
Printed by

Engraved by J. H. Smith & Son, 15, New Bond Street, London.

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lage is small, and obscurely placed in a narrow valley, between two lofty hills. The superior lords of the chief manor, originally, were the Ferrers, earls of Derby, * from whom it descended to the house of Lancaster. In the reign of Edward III. John of Gaunt made a grant of it to sir Philip de Somerville, for certain curious services† which our limits will not permit us to narrate. From this family it passed by marriage to that of Griffyth, who likewise possessed the adjoining manor of *Briddeshus*, or *Briddesdale*.

The parish church is a large old building, consisting of a lofty nave and chancel, and surmounted by a massive tower. On the floor, in the body of it, are several ancient flat stones with figures cut out upon them, but in so mutilated a state as to render it impossible to ascertain any thing concerning them. The tower is remarkable as the *Centrum Phonocampticum*, or object of an echo, which returns no less than five syllables distinctly, though the distance of the *centrum phonicum*, or speaker's place, does not exceed 70 yards.‡ Another uncommon echo is mentioned by Dr. Plot as having been formerly heard near the parsonage house, which so much depended on the state of the weather that it never answered except in frost.

There are several hamlets in this parish; but that of *Burton under Needwood* alone deserves to be noticed. This place was anciently called simply *Berton*, and seems to have been of some consequence at the time of the Norman conquest. The church, a chapel of ease to Tatenhill, is a neat building of stone founded about the commencement of the sixteenth century, by Dr. John Taylor, a native of this village, and the eldest of three at a birth. The windows of the chancel still display the remains of rich and elegantly finished paintings of the twelve apostles. In the centre one is the figure of the Saviour

* *Daron*. Vol. I. p. 262.

† See Shaw's *Staffordshire*, p. 106. Blount's *Tenures*, 217. Dugdale's *Baronage*.

‡ Plot's *Natural history of Staffordshire*, p. 28.

Saviour upon the cross. At the eastern extremity of the village stands the Free-school, a very respectable old fabric erected in 1593, and lately much improved through the exertions of Mr. Kirk.

Some years ago a variety of Roman coins were discovered in the vicinity of the small hamlet of Callingwood. A curious and beautiful model in shittim wood of the holy sepulchre, with the church over it, was formerly deposited in a house possessed by Mr. Jolland. The history of it, as well as the name of the artist, are unknown. It is remarkable that salt is so profusely mixed with the soil of some parts of this parish, that even black cattle change their colour to a whitish dun, after grazing upon it only for a few months. To the west of the principal village lies Sinai park once possessed by the abbots of Burton, and now the property of the earl of Uxbridge. It is a rough hilly piece of ground and derived its name from some supposed resemblance between it and the wilderness of Sinai.

TUTBURY, OR STUTESBURY.

This celebrated place lies about four miles from Burton upon Trent, on the west bank of the river Dove. It was erected into a free borough at an early period by some of the royal personages, who occupied its once magnificent castle. The burgesses and inhabitants then possessed a variety of valuable privileges. Among these were "divers liberties of common of pasture, purvenage, and estovers, in the forest of Needwood," together with freedom from "all toll, tonnage, package, poundage, and other exactions within all their possessions." What is rather remarkable, this town never had the right of sending members to Parliament, though still retaining the name of a borough, and having a population of a thousand persons. The market, which is held on Tuesday, is of small note. Wool-combing constitutes the principal business of the inhabitants.





THE CASTLE, CHURCH & BRIDGE,
Staffordshire

the manufactory, established about twenty years ago, also
 to give employment to a considerable number of per-
 sons. Tutbury has an excellent free school originally founded
 and endowed by Richard Wakefield in the year 1730, and
 in 1789. It has likewise a meeting house for dis-
 cussion.
 The castle, than which there is scarcely one more famous in
 the land, is supposed by some to have been first erected* a
 considerable time before the Norman conquest. Camden,† how-
 ever, expressly says "it was built by Henry de Ferrars, a no-
 ble Norman, to whom William the first gave fine estates in this
 county,"‡ and of course at a period subsequent to that event.
 In the family of Ferrars it remained till the reign of Henry
 the third, when it was forfeited by Robert de Ferrars, the rebel
 earl of Derby. Henry the third, the reigning monarch, be-
 lowed it on his second son Edmund, earl of Lancaster. In
 1269 it once more reverted to the crown, in consequence of the
 rebellion of Thomas, earl of Lancaster, who fortified it against
 Edward the second; but, being unable to hold it, was obliged
 to surrender. Having suffered considerable damage during this
 contest, and being afterwards allowed to fall into decay, John
 of Gaunt rebuilt the greater part of it upon the ancient scite in
 1350.

This castle, being the principal seat of the dukes of Lancas-
 ter, was long distinguished as the scene of much festivity and
 splendour. The number of minstrels which crowded to it was
 so great that it was found necessary to have recourse to some
 expedient for preserving order amongst them, and determining
 their claims of precedence. Accordingly one of their own num-
 ber, with the title of King of the minstrels, was appointed
 with

* Tradition even reports that a part of it was erected by Julius Cæsar, but
 this we presume to be a mere fable.

† Gough's Camden, Vol. II. p. 498.

‡ Those who maintain that the castle was built prior to this period, say that
 it was given along with the estates to Henry de Ferrars.

with this view, and under him several inferior officers to assist in the execution of the laws. To this chief minstrel a charter was granted in the following terms, by John of Gaunt duke of Lancaster.

"John, by the grace of God, King of Castile and Leon, duke of Lancaster to all them who shall see or hear these our letters greeting. Know ye, we have ordained, constituted, and assigned, to our well beloved the king of the minstrels in the honour of Tutbury, who is, or for the time being shall be, to apprehend and arrest all the minstrels in our said honour and franchise, that refuse to doe the service and minstrelsy as appertain to them to doe from ancient times at Tutbury aforesaid, yearly on the days of the assumption of our lady, giving and granting to the said king of the minstrels, for the time being, full power and commandment, to make them reasonable to justify, and to constrain them to doe their services and minstrelsies in manner as belongeth to them, and as it hath there and of ancient times accustomed. In witness of which thing we have caused these our letters to be made patents.

"Given under our privy seal at our castle of Tutbury the twenty-second day of August, in the fourth year of the raigne of the most sweet king Richard the second." (1381.)

The fines and other punishments, which by virtue of this charter, the king and his officers inflicted upon defaulters, being found in numerous instances to exceed the due bounds of justice, it was deemed expedient to institute a court, to be held before the Steward of the manor, on the morrow after the assumption, for the purpose of hearing all complaints, and determining all controversies, connected with minstrelsy within the honour of Tutbury. On the court day, all the minstrels having assembled at the mansion house of the bailiff of the lordship, they, together with the steward and bailiff, walked in procession from hence to the church in the following order:

Music,

Music,

Minstrels, two and two,

Steward—king of the Minstrels,—bailiff,

Stewards and officers of the late king of the Minstrels, with
white wands in their hands,

Inhabitants of the borough and Honor of Tutbury.

Divine service * being finished the procession, continued in the same order from the church to the castle hall. Here the king of the minstrels having seated himself between the Steward and Bailiff, or their deputies, one of his officers gave notice, that all minstrels dwelling within the honour of Tutbury,† and owing suit and service to that court, “ must draw near and give their attendance upon pain and peril that might otherwise ensue; and that if any man would be assigned of suit or plea he or they should come in, and they should be heard.” The names of the minstrels were now called over from the court roll, and two juries‡ impanelled, who after receiving a charge from the steward on the importance of music, and the duties they had to perform, proceeded to elect their officers for the ensuing year. The king was chosen from the four Stewards then in office, one year out of Staffordshire and the other out of Derbyshire. Of the new stewards, two were elected from each of these counties, three being nominated by the jurors, and one by the person who held the court. After the election the jurors retired to a private room leaving the old king and bailiff and their assistants in the hall “ quaffing the rosy bowl and enjoying the sound of contending minstrels.” Upon the return of the jurors they presented their new chief officer to the court by the title of king. The old

Vol. XIII.

C c c

king

* It was performed by the vicar of Tutbury, who received one penny from each minstrel as a fee invariably due to him upon this solemnity.

† This was a very extensive honour, comprehending the counties of Stafford, Derby, Nottingham, Leicester, and Warwick.

‡ Twelve of the jurymen were chosen from Staffordshire, and twelve from all the other counties.

king instantly arose and delivered to him a white wand or staff, (*album baculum*) in token of sovereignty. He next drank to his health in a plentiful libation of wine, wishing him all joy and prosperity in his office. The same form was observed with respect to the stewards.*

The business of the court being concluded, they withdrew to partake of a sumptuous repast prepared for them by the steward of the lordship. In the afternoon the minstrels assembled at the gate of the priory. A bull, having his horns, ears, and tail, cut off, his body besmeared with soap, and his nose blown full of pepper, was then let loose. If the minstrels could take and hold him even so long as to deprive him of the smallest portion of his hair, he was declared their property, provided this was done within the confines of Staffordshire, and before sun set. The bull was next collared and roped, and being brought to the market cross was baited with dogs. After this he was delivered to the minstrels who might dispose of him as they deemed proper.†

According to charter, the minstrels only were entitled to engage in this sport, the multitude being positively restrained under severe penalties from approaching the bull nearer than 40 yards. In after times, however, the latter began to mix in the ceremony with great zeal. This gave birth to much animosity between the inhabitants of the counties of Stafford and Derby. So far, indeed, did each party carry their eagerness for superiority in this contest, that it seldom concluded without a serious rencounter, and much bloodshed. In consequence of these

* Jackson's Historical Description of Tutbury, p. 10, 11.

† An insperimus by Henry VI. relative to the customs of Tutbury makes mention of this extraordinary one in the following words. "There is an ancient practice belonging to the honor of Tutbury, that the minstrels who come to Matins there, on the feast of the assumption of the blessed virgin, shall have a bull given by the prior of Tutbury, if they can take him on this side the river Dove, which is next Tutbury; or else the prior shall give them Xld for the enjoyment of which custom they shall give to the lord, at the said feast yearly XXd."

these outrages a final period was put to this barbarous custom, by commutation, about 40 years ago.* An annual court, however, called the Minstrel's court, still continues to be held at the stewards' house, which is situated on a part of the site of the ancient castle.

In the general history of this county it is remarked that Mary queen of Scots was confined for some time within the walls of this celebrated edifice. She had previously resided in Bolton castle, Yorkshire, in the custody of Lord Scroop, brother-in-law to the duke of Norfolk. Upon the discovery, however, of the intrigues of the latter nobleman to obtain the hand of the royal prisoner, it was deemed dangerous to trust her person to the care of one who might be supposed to have some interest in procuring her freedom. Accordingly, in October 1568 queen Elizabeth ordered her to be removed hither, and committed to the keeping of George Talbot, earl of Shrewsbury, who seems to have executed his commission with great feeling and humanity.† Here Mary remained till November in the following year, when she was conveyed from hence to Coventry as a place of greater security, against the attempts of the duke and his party to effect her release. Hastings, earl of Huntingdon, who pretended to dispute with this unfortunate princess her title to the Scottish throne, was now joined in the commission with Shrewsbury, and, by his rigorous conduct, contributed in no small degree to render her situation more unhappy. Such, indeed, was the harsh treatment which she experienced during this period that her health began visibly to decline. At length the French ambassador interfered and prevailed with Elizabeth to permit her to visit Buxton, in order that she might enjoy the benefit of the waters. This indulgence, however, was only of

C c c 2

short

* The duke of Devonshire, who holds the priory, now gives the minstrels four marks, as the commuted tenure. The king of music also receives from the bailiff five nobles in lieu of his right to the ball, after which it is fed for the use of the poor at Christmas.

† Collins's Peerage, vol. III. p. 18, 19.

short duration. Cecil, the favourite minister of her more powerful rival, happening to be here at the same time, drew upon himself, by this accident, the temporary suspicions of his royal mistress, to destroy which, it is probable, he became more decidedly the adviser of severe measures. But, be this as it may, it is true that Mary was soon after removed back to her dreary residence at Coventry; and, what added not a little to her misery, was taken from the custody of the earl of Shrewsbury, and committed to the care of Sir Amias Paulet and Sir Drue Drury,* men who seem to have possessed no other qualities to recommend them but their severity and rigour. The wretched queen was now exposed to every species of indignity, which could result from a stern temper accompanied by brutal manners.† The French Ambassador again remonstrated in a vigorous and menacing tone against the affronts thus unjustly heaped upon her; but he was unable to obtain any further alleviation of her miseries, except the permission of returning to Tutbury castle, and some slight relaxation in the rigor of her confinement. Here she remained from March 1585, till towards the close of the following winter, when she was conveyed

* Lodge, in his *Illustrations of British History*, denies that the earl of Shrewsbury was dismissed, maintaining it to be clear from the papers of those days, that he resigned of his own accord, and that Mildmay and Somers immediately succeeded him; and not the gentlemen mentioned in the text.

† This assertion we make on the authority of Dr. Robertson, who, in his *History of Scotland*, speaking of these gentlemen, says, "Even the short period of her days that remained they rendered uncomfortable by every hardship and indignity it was in their power to inflict. Almost all her servants were dismissed; she was treated no longer with the respect due to a queen: and though the rigour of seventeen years imprisonment, had almost broken her constitution, she was confined to two ruinous chambers scarce habitable even in the midst of summer, by reason of the cold," &c. It is but justice to Sir Amias to add, that, however harsh and stern his conduct towards Mary, might be in point of manners, he not only resolutely refused to be accessory to her assassination, but would on no account permit her servants to be bribed to disclose the secrets of their mistress, or betray her intentions.

ed first to Chartley, and afterwards to Fotheringay castle, the scene of her shameful trial and condemnation.

At the commencement of the civil wars in the reign of Charles the first, this castle was garrisoned and maintained by lord Loughborough, a zealous partizan and supporter of the royal cause. Sir William Brereton, one of the parliamentary commanders, however, laid siege to it, and conducted the attack with such judgement and vigour that his lordship was soon compelled to surrender. The damage sustained by the castle on this occasion was very great. It was not, however, doomed to total destruction, till towards the conclusion of the war, when the Parliament issued an order for that purpose dated in 1646, at which time it was reduced nearly to its present ruinous condition.

James the second paid a visit to this celebrated residence of the house of Lancaster, during his memorable tour through England. Instead of the sighs of a distressed queen, the walls now re-echoed the joyful acclamations of loyalty. They no longer beheld an unhappy, though illustrious prisoner, but a mighty monarch surrounded by all the splendour and magnificence of kingly power.

The few remains of this castle, which still exist, are alone sufficient to declare its former extent and grandeur. It has been built chiefly of hewn free stone, with admixtures of gypsum, and stands on an alabaster hill of considerable elevation, commanding a very fine and varied prospect. The ancient gateway is tolerably entire, and towers and buildings, with hewel staircases, as well as vestiges of divisions of rooms, with fire places, can yet be discovered in different parts of the walls which appear to have been of immense strength and thickness.

The whole was surrounded by a broad and deep ditch over which, Dr. Plott* informs us, there was in his time an extraordinary timber bridge, composed of distinct pieces of wood,

C c c 3

none

* Plott's Natural History of Staffordshire.

none of them above a yard long, yet unsupported by any arch-work, pillars, or other prop. Sir Simon Degge says it was more than thirty yards in length, but adds that the arches which served to support it, reached to a considerable distance. Both these authors agree in affirming, that "the more weight was upon it, the stronger it was, and may be if well loaded it would not quake so much as he had made it with his weight."*

The PRIORY, founded at the same time with the castle, and by the same illustrious person, was dedicated to the Virgin Mary.† The religious of this cell were monks of the Benedictine order. A great extent of landed property, and other sources of revenue, were conferred upon them by king William Rufus, for the benefit of the souls of king William I. and his queen Maud, and for the health of his father's wife Berta, and their sons and daughters. Berta afterwards gave them the town of Doveridge, and the manor of Estanton. Earl Robert de Ferrars, grandson to the founder, confirmed to them all their former possessions and rights, and added the tithes of Newborough as his own gift. This person, however, in some measure lowered the dignity of the priory, by granting to the monks of the house of St. Pere super Divam in Normandy, the high privilege of having the prior uniformly nominated from among them. Several other descendants of the family of Ferrars also contributed greatly to augment the possessions of this monastery. Scarcely a vestige of the ancient building now remains, and we know little more either concerning its structure, or interior decorations, except that it was of large extent, and contained a very splendid antique monument to the memory of its original founder. The parish church, constitutes a portion of the old priory church. It is a large massive building with a square embattled tower at one end surmounted by four small pinnacles. The principal entrance, situated on the west side, is finely decorated with beautiful specimens of Saxon sculpture.

The

* Gough's Camden, Vol. II. p. 516.

† Ib.



TUTBURY CHURCH,
Staffordshire.

Engraved by W. H. Sturt, from a drawing by J. G. Smith.

Printed and Published by J. G. Smith, at the Office of the Staffordshire Advertiser.

Printed by W. H. Sturt, from a drawing by J. G. Smith.



The living is a vicarage in the gift of the duke of Devonshire.

Before concluding our account of Tutbury, it will not perhaps be improper to state a few particulars relative to that remarkable living phenomenon, Mrs. Ann Moore, who has now subsisted for nearly five years without food or drink of any description. This woman, according to her own account, first totally lost the use of her digestive organs from washing the linen, and dressing the wounds, of a person extremely afflicted with scrophulous ulcers. From that period every thing she eat or drank presented to her imagination the taste and smell of the putrid matter which issued from the wounds. Her stomach, which before this was extremely weak, now refused the smallest sustenance. During her whole illness she has never felt the most distant inclination either for food or drink; nor has she for four years had a single passage by stool or urine. She never sleeps so soundly as to forget herself, but remains in a dozing state for a few hours of the night. Her body is totally insensible to the variations of heat and cold which our climate exhibits, feeling precisely in the same condition both in summer and winter. Her extremities feel cold, and apparently lifeless, to the touch of another, and though pressed with considerable force, produce no sensation of pain to her.

In person Mrs. Moore rather exceeds the ordinary size. The regularity and just proportion of her features are signs of former beauty. Her disposition seems to be naturally lively, and her conversation fluent. She preserves her mental faculties in a wonderful degree, but is somewhat tinctured with religious melancholy. By the assistance of glasses she is enabled both to read and sew with great ease. Her voice, which was originally strong is now extremely weak, and for the last twelve months she has been much liable to hysterical fits, and also to occasional paroxysms of fever, accompanied by great pain.*

C c c 4

The

* This case is one of so extraordinary a nature, and so diametrically in opposition to the usual course of nature, that it is extremely difficult to give it belief.

The parish and village of *Hanbury*, adjoins to Tutbury on the south-west, lying close upon the northern extremity of Needwood forest. The village finely situated on an eminence, commands at once a noble prospect of the fertile meadows of the Dove, and the bleak and dreary mountains of the Moorlands. The etymology of its name is descriptive of its elevated site, *Hean* in Saxon signifying high.

This place is mentioned by various writers at a very early period. The celebrated St. Werburgh, the sister or niece of Ethelred, king of Mercia, was long abbess of a monastery here now entirely demolished, but which no doubt stood a short way to the east of the church, as human bones have been frequently discovered on that spot. This princess, when very young, had been betrothed to her cousin Ceolred, who afterwards mounted the Mercian throne. The marriage, however, was never consummated, the queen, her mother, having instructed her to devote herself to God and virginity. Much difference prevails among historians as to the place of her death and sepulture. William of Malmesbury says, she died and was buried at Chester. Higden* on the other hand, with more probability, asserts that she ended her days in this monastery, and that she, likewise, lay interred here, till upon the invasion of this district by the Danes, the *religieuses* flying to Chester, carried the bones of their saint along with them. The elegant shrine erected to her memory in the cathedral church of Chester is described in our account of that city, to which the reader is referred.†

The church stands on the very edge of the declivity, on which the village is situated. It is an ancient stone building, having a very lofty nave and spacious aisles. At one end rises
a plain

belief. From the care taken, however, to prevent imposition, and the respectability and intelligence of those who testify the truth of the above statement, we are compelled to attach to it implicit credit. A particular account of this woman will be found in the *Monthly Magazine*, Vol. 32. p. 88, 207.

* Higden. *Ad. Ann.* 875.

† *Ante* Vol. II. p. 215. *Shaw's History of Staffordshire*, Vol. I. p. 71.

a plain square tower, which, aided by the natural elevation of its base, exhibits a fine appearance from a distance, and affords a very extensive view. The situation of this church and village are well described in the following lines, quoted from the justly admired poem of "Needwood forest :"

" Her stately tower there Hanbury rears
Which proudly looks o'er distant shires
Down the chill slope and darkened glade
Projects afar its length of shade,
Assails the skies with Giant force
And checks the whirlwind in its course ;
Or when black clouds involve the pole,
Disarms the thunders, as they roll ;
Beneath how nature throws around
Grand inequalities of ground
While down the dells and o'er the steeps
The wavy line of Paphos creeps."*

Several monuments, both ancient and modern, adorn the interior of this fabric, but none of them seem to require particular notice or description.

NEEDWOOD FOREST.

This forest, a most beautiful and interesting spot, extends from the confines of Hanbury to Yoxal about a mile to the north of the river Trent. According to a Survey, made in the year 1765, it consists of 9920 acres of one of the finest soils in the kingdom, which, till very lately, remained wholly unclosed, and in a state of nature. Here the little warblers of the grove, unnumbered, chant their wild and mellifluous notes. Here also the woodcock, the snipe, the pheasant, and the partridge, abound in profusion, and rear their tender offspring for the sport of the cruel fowler. Numerous deer range in the vallies ;

* Needwood Forest, p. 27.

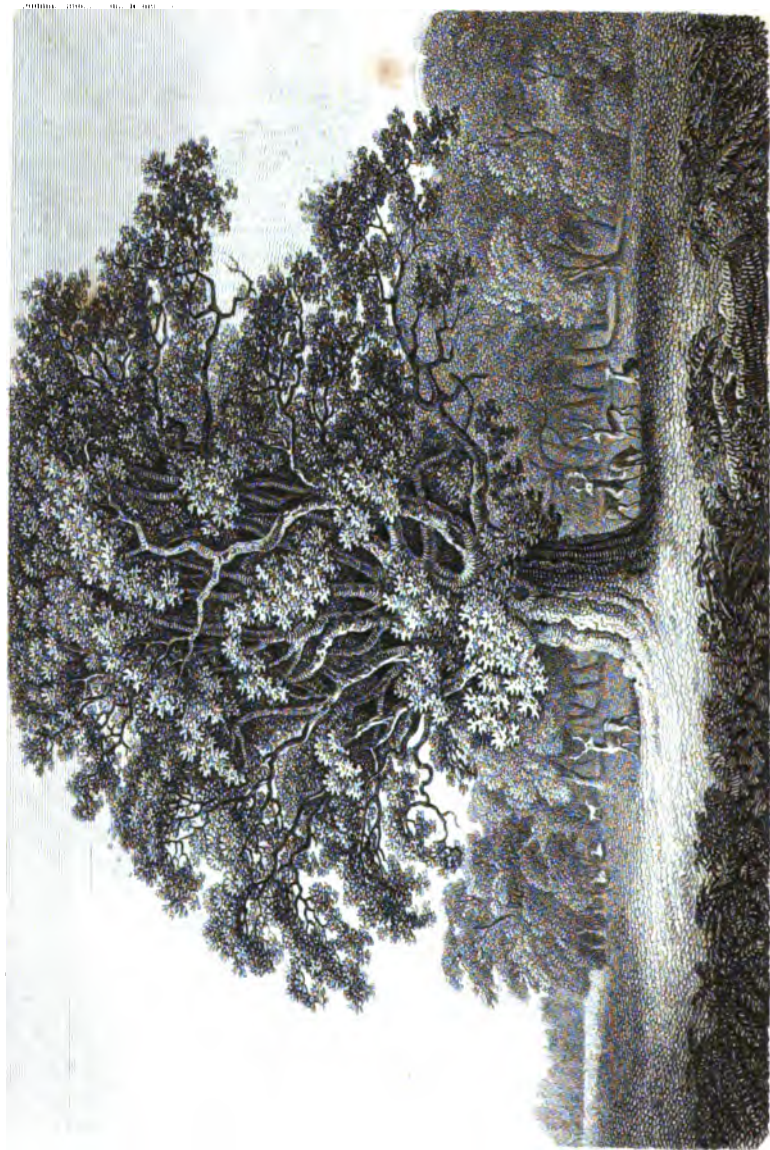
vallies; the hare hides in the thicket, the fox and the badger burrow in the declivity of the deep glen, and the rabbit on the sandy hill; all of them but too often the prey of relentless man, who, notwithstanding his boasted reason and innate sense of moral rectitude, is the only animal in creation, at once the enemy of his own species, and the terror of every other part of animated nature.

Needwood forest anciently formed a portion of the property of the dukes of Lancaster, in whose right it has belonged to the English monarchs for several centuries, subject, however, to certain privileges of common enjoyed by the owners and inhabitants of some of the adjacent villages. It is divided into the four wards of Marchington, Yoxall, Barton, and Tutbury, each ward containing about five miles in compass, exclusive of the Uttoxeterwood, Boughay, &c. The officers of the forest are a lieutenant, and chief ranger, assisted by a deputy, four lieutenants, four keepers, and an axe-bearer. A court is still held every year by the king's steward of the honour of Tutbury, when a jury of twenty-four persons resident within the jurisdiction present and amerce all persons guilty of "encroaching on the forest, or committing offences in vert or venison."*

The natural disposition of this forest presents a great, and beautiful variety of aspect. Gradual eminences and easy vales watered by murmuring rills, with here and there a bolder and more abrupt swell, form its general feature. In the northern parts, particularly within Marchington Woodlands, the eminences are far more numerous and lofty, than in the middle or southern divisions. The forest here exhibits to the eye, a series of deep glens inclosed by steep and rugged precipices, incapable of agricultural improvement, but happily covered with a
vast

* There were formerly eight parks, impaled within the ring of the forest, called the parks of Agardesley, Stockley, Barton, Heylyns, Sherrold, Castle-hay, Hanbury, and Rolleston. That of Castle-hay, situated about a mile from the castle, was three miles and a half in compass, and that of Hanbury, two miles and an half. Jackson's account of Tutbury, p. 40.





Engraved by J. G. Smith from a drawing by W. J. Smith

See the Records of English and Welsh

SWILCAR OAK,
(*Quercus pedunculata*)
Staffordshire.

That variety of trees, among which the native oak, vigorous and luxuriant, shoots up in great abundance. Mr. Shaw says, that the whole forest does not contain less than 1000 acres of oak timber, a greater quantity, than perhaps any district in England can boast of possessing. The venerable *Swilcar*, a tree of immense size* and majestic appearance, is situated in an open lawn, surrounded by extensive woods, and is supposed to have stood upwards of six hundred years. It is thus addressed, in truly poetical strains, in the poem of "Needwood Forest:"

"Hail, stately Oak, whose wrinkled trunk hath stood
 Age after age the sovereign of the wood;
 You, who have seen a thousand springs unfold
 Their ravel'd buds and dip their flowers in gold;
 Ten thousand times yon moon relight her horn,
 And that bright eye of evening gild the morn.

Yes, stately Oak; thy leaf-wrapp'd head sublime
 Ere long must perish in the wreck of time
 Should o'er thy brow the thunders harmless break,
 And thy firm roots in vain the whirlwinds shake,
 Yet must you fall.—Thy withering glories sunk,
 Arm after arm shall leave thy mould'ring trunk."

A white or red marly loam, more or less tenacious, but seldom approaching to the harshness of clay, forms the soil in almost every part of Needwood. About a thousand acres are sufficiently light for turnips, and seven thousand more, are equal to the productions of the finest crops of any species of grain, or to the feeding of cattle of the first rate kind. When brought to a proper state of cultivation and improvement, which can easily be effected, and we trust will shortly take place, this tract

* This noble oak measures 21 feet round the trunk, at the height of five feet. The lower stem is ten feet high clear, the whole height 65, and the extent of the arms 45 feet. It contains 1000 feet of solid timber. Pitt's Survey. Shaw's Staffordshire.

tract of country will be one of the most delightful and fertile districts in Great Britain.*

At the south extremity of Needwood, lies the village of *Yoxal*. This village, which was formerly a market town, is finely watered by the stream of *Swarbourne*, which serves, during a great part of its course, to divide the different soils in this portion of the county, the one side of its channel being of a deep loam or clayey soil, and the other an ebb soil with a gravel bottom. The church dedicated to *St. Peter*, is a spacious and elegant structure of stone, having a tower surmounted by handsome pinnacles at the one end. In the interior are a variety of antique and modern monuments. At a short distance from the village, a number of vessels, probably the remains of Roman antiquity, were discovered a few years ago, but most of them unfortunately went to pieces in the act of raising them.† These vessels contained a considerable quantity of ashes, and fragments of human bones, and were composed of a very soft species of coarse brown earth.

The village of *Wichnor*, or *Whichnoure*, is situated east from *Yoxal*, on an eminence near the north bank of the *Trent*, at a short distance from the point at which that river becomes the boundary between this county and *Derbyshire*. It is particularly deserving of notice, because of the singular tenure by which the manor was held by *Sir Philip de Somerville*, in the reign of *Edward III.* under the *Earl of Lancaster*, as lord of the honour of *Tutbury*. After enumerating two small fees, the charter proceeds

* *Mr. Pitt* says, that at least 8000 acres of this forest are susceptible of the highest improvement, and estimates their value in this state at 5*l.* per acre, or 40,000*l.* per annum; whereas, in their waste condition they are not worth more than 4*s.* per acre, or 1800*l.* per annum. Under these circumstances, the cultivation of *Needwood*, is certainly an object worthy of serious attention, both from the increase it would afford to the national capital, and to the revenues of the proprietors. *Pitt's Survey*, p. 187.

† One of the few got up entire was deposited in *Mr. Green's Museum* at *Lichfield*, and is engraved and described in the *Gentleman's Magazine*, Vol. 44. p. 358.

proceeds thus: " Nevertheless the said Sir Philip shall fynde meyntienge and susteyne, one bacon flyke hanging in his halle at *Whichenore*, ready arrayed all tymes of the yere, bott in *Leut* to be given to everyche mane or womane married after the day and yere of their marriage be passed; and to be given to everyche mane or womane married after the day and yere of their marriage be passed, and to be given to everyche man of religion, archbishop, prior, or other religious; and to everyche preest, after the year and day of their profession finished; or of their dignity reseved in forme following. Whensoever that any such before named wyll come for to enquire for the baconne in their own person, or by any other for them, they shall come to the bayliff or porter of the Lordship of *Whichenour*, and shall say to them in the manere as ensetheth:

" Bayliffe or porter, I doo you to know that I am come for myself (or, if he come for any other shewing for whome,) one bacon flyke, hanging in the halle of the Lord of *Whichenour*, after the forme thereto longinge.

" After which relation, the bailiffe or porter shal assigne a daye to him, upon promise of his feythe to return, and with him to bring tweyne of his neighbours, and in the meyn time the said bailiff shall take with him tweyne of the freeholders of the lordship of *Whichenoure*, and they three shal goe to the mannour of *Radlowe*, belonging to *Robert Knightley*, and there shall somon the foresaid *Knightley*, or his bayliffe, commanding him to be ready at *Whichenour*, the day appointed at pryme of day with his carriage; that is to say, a horse and sadyle, a sakke, and a pryke, for to convey and carry the said bacon and corn a journey out of the county of *Stafford* at his costages; and then the sayd bailiffe shal with the sayd freeholders, somon all the tenants of the said manoir to be ready at the day appointed at *Whichenour*, for to doe and performe the services to the baconne. And at the day assigned all such as owe services to the baconne shall be ready at the gate of the manoir, from the sonne risinge to none, attendyng and awayting for the comyng of him and his felowys chapaletts, and to all those whiche shal be there to doe their

their services due to the baconne: and they shall lead the said demandant, wythe -tromps and tabours and other manner of mynstralseye to the halle close where he shal fynde the lord of *Whichenour*, ready to deliver the baconne in this manere."

"He shall enquire of him which demandeth the baconne, if he hath brought tweyne of his neighbours; who must answer, *They be here redy*; and then the steward shall cause these two neighbours to swere yf the said demandant be a weddyt man or have be a man weddyt, and yf syth his marriage one yere and a day be passed, and yf he be a freeman or villeyn: and yf his seid neighbours make othe that he hath for hym all these three points rehersed, then shal the bacon be take downe and brought to the halle dore, and shal there be layed upon one half a quarter of wheatte, and upon one other of rye: and he that demandeth the baconne shall kneel upon his knee, and shall hold his right hand upon a booke, which shal be laid above the baconne and the corne, and shall make oath in this manere:

"Here ye Sir *Philip de Someryle*, lord of *Whichenour*, mayntaynder and giver of this baconne, that I A, syth I wedded B. my wife, and syth I had her in my kepyng and at wylle by a yere and a daye after our marriage, I would not have changed for none other, farer ne fowler, richer ne powrer, ne for none other descended of gretter lynage, slepyng ne waking, at noe tyme, and if the seid B. were sole, and I sole, I wolde take her to be my wife before all the wyemen of the world, and of what condytions soevere they be, good or evyle, as helpe me God and his seyntys, and this flesh and all fleshes.

And his neighbours shal make oath that they trust verily he hath said truely. And yf it be founde by his neighbours aforenamed, that he be a freeman, there shall be delyvered to him halfe a quarter of wheatte, and a cheese; and yf he be a villein, he shal have half a quarter of rye, withoutte cheese and then shal *Knyghtley*, the lord of *Rudlowe*, be called for to carry all their things to fore rehersed, and the said corn shall be layd upon one horse, and the baconne apperteyneth shal

send upon his horse, and shall take the chase before hym, if he have a horse, and yf he have none, the lord of *Whichenour*, shall cause him to have one horse and sadyl, to such tyme as he passed his lordshippe, and so shal they departs the manoyr of *Whichenour*, with the corn and the baconne to fore him, him that bath wonne ytt, with trumpets, tabourets, and other manoir of ministrallse, and all the free tenants of *Whichenour*, shall conduct him to be passed the Lordship of *Whichenour*; and then shall they retorne, except hym to whom appertaiyneth to make the carriage and journey withoutt the countye of *Stafford*, at the costys of his lord of *Whichenour*, and yf the said *Robert Kayghtley*, do not cause the baconne and corne to be conveyed as is rehersed, the lord of *Whichenour*, shal do it to be carryed, and shal distreigne the said *Robert Kayghtley*, for his default for one hundred shillings in his manoir of *Rudlowe*, and shall kepe the distresse so takyn irreplevisable."

No motives, as far as we know, are assigned by antiquaries for the institution of this curious custom, except the mere whim or caprice of the noble Earl, by whom the charter to Sir Philip de Somerville was granted. Whether it was calculated to afford to the inquisitive in such matters any just data upon which to calculate the proportion between the number of the happy and unhappy in the married state, we shall not pretend to determine. It is not, however, certainly much to the honour of matrimony, that since this practice was first established, few have dared to claim the prize, and three couples only have obtained it, one of which, having quarrelled about the mode of preparing the bacon for the table, was adjudged to return it.*

No demandant for the flitch having appeared during several centuries, a wooden one was long ago substituted in its stead, a friendly monitor to the young and free, to be cautious of trusting themselves in the hymeneal noose.

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* The other two couples were a sea officer and his wife, who had never seen one another from the day of their marriage, till they met at the hall; and a simple pair in the neighbourhood; the husband, a goodnatured sensible man, and the wife luckily dumb. Spectator, No. 608.

The church of Wichnour, dedicated to St. Leonard, and formerly a chapel of ease to Tatenhill, is no ways remarkable either for its architecture or interior ornaments; but being seated on an eminence, and commanding a fine view, is an object of some interest to the adjacent country. At a short distance from hence stands the manor house, a neat modern building, surrounded by rich woody scenery. Mr. Pennant supposes it to be placed on the site of the original mansion, which Leland mentions as totally in ruins in his days, the then family residence being situated in the vale immediately adjoining to the Trent, and much liable to the overflowings of that river.* The Roman road from Lichfield to Burton, passes through the eastern portion of this parish, and, owing to the marshy nature of the ground here, has been constructed upon immense piles of wood.† It is carried over the several branches of the Trent, which here forms a variety of islands by a series of handsome stone bridges. The Grand Trunk canal also crosses this river close to the road, upon a range of very noble aqueducts. Many coins of different Roman emperors, have been discovered in this neighbourhood, and vestiges of a Roman camp appear in the inclosures of *Whichenour Lodge*.‡

The parish of *Alrewas* immediately adjoins to Whichenour, on the opposite side of the river, the canal running almost through the centre of the village which is of considerable extent, and situated in the valley of the Trent. The original church of this parish was established at a very early period, being one of the prebends instituted by the bishop of Lichfield, in 822.§ This place appears to have been celebrated in ancient times, for its eel fishery. In the southern division of the parish is a large extent of waste ground, called *Fradley and Alrewas common*, a great proportion of which is capable of being converted

* Pennant's Journey, p. 129.

† Mr. Shaw tells us, that the piles were distinctly visible to him, in the year 1795, when the flood destroyed the bridges over the Trent, and laid open a portion of the road.

‡ Shaw's Staffordshire, p. 18.

§ *Magna Britannia*, Vol. V. p. 123.

verted into excellent pasture grounds.* On one part of the common is a remarkable spring, vulgarly said to be bottomless, which always overflows, and though placed in a low situation, actually permits the plummet to descend 42 feet. Near this well Dr. Plot mentions, that an uncommon species of fungus was found in his time, the interior of which resembled sponge, both in colour and texture, and was covered with a membranous skin. This fungus was very large, being at least four or five inches in diameter, and rose from a short pedicle which extended broader and broader almost to its very brim, in the shape of an inverted cone.†

Higher up the river, and on the same side, lies the village of *King's Bromley*, originally called *Brom-legge*, and deriving its present name from the circumstance of its being the property of the crown, for nearly two centuries after the Norman conquest. It had previously been distinguished as the residence of the Earls of Mercia. Leofric, the husband of the famous Godiva, died here, in the year 1057. Plot mentions a remarkable instance of longevity in the person of Mary Cooper, resident in this parish, who had seen her descendants to the sixth generation, and what is more extraordinary, all of them alive at the same time, so that she could say to her daughter, "Rise daughter, go to thy daughter, for thy daughter's daughter hath got a daughter." Between the village, and the Mersey and Trent canal, in the direction of Fradeley heath, is a large common, containing about 1000 acres of land. The church, dedicated to All Saints, presents to the view a very fine old Gothic building, adorned with large and beautiful windows, and containing several monuments in honour of the Agards and Newtons, proprietors of the manor.

Eastward from this parish, and that of Yoxal, are three small villages named *Hamstal Ridware*, *Pipe Ridware*, and

VOL. XIII.

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Mavesin

* It consists of between two and three thousand acres; and there is plenty of marl in the neighbourhood.

† Plot's Staffordshire, p. 60.

Mavesin Ridware. They probably in early times formed one district, under the name now common to each. These three villages lie in an angle between the river Blythè and the Trent. Somewhere in this neighbourhood stood Blithsburgh, a Saxon town of great antiquity, which is supposed to have risen on the ruins of some more important station belonging originally either to the native British, or the Romans, and afterwards successively occupied by the Saxons and Danes. The situation of this strong hold is not precisely ascertained; but there is every reason to believe it was placed on the hill called *Castle-ring*, at the distance of five or six miles. As the inhabitants of the country, in those troublesome times, generally flocked to the vicinity of military stations for protection, Blithsburgh would flourish, and continue to do so after the settlement of the country; whereas, the fort would be destroyed and soon forgotten.

Hamstal Ridware, the most northerly of the Ridwares, was, at the time of the great survey, in the hundred of Pyrehill. The church, an old spire building, has some painted glass on the windows, and contains several handsome monuments; one of them in honour of John Allestree, A. M. minister of the church of England for 54 years; during which period, he composed 500 sermons, and preached 5000 times. Adjoining to the church, is the manor house, an extensive edifice, formerly fitted up in a style of great splendour and magnificence. Near it stands a neat watch tower, ascended by a staircase, and open at the top, which anciently communicated by a suit of rooms with the other buildings. In this house a curious stone hammer, dug up in the neighbourhood, is preserved, as are likewise a coat of mail, provided for king Charles in the time of the rebellion, and a curious iron cage in which the heads of scolding women were placed, to enforce silence.*

Pipe

* This truly valuable instrument is composed of narrow thin plates opening into two equal parts, having vacancies for the nose and eyes. When fixed on, a flat piece of iron projects into the mouth, and pressing upon the tongue,

Pipe Ridware, is only remarkable for its church, which is a very ancient structure, containing a curious old font, sculptured in an uncommon manner with circles interlaced.

Maverin Ridware, so called from the family of *Mulboisin*, *Mauvesin*, or *Maverin*, a branch of the illustrious house of Roswy, in the Isle of France. The old manor house is entirely demolished, with the exception of the gatehouse, in which is an old chamber, said to have been originally an oratory. The ancient church dedicated to St. Nicholas contains several antique monuments. The new church is a plain building. Some of the tombs, in honour of the Mauvesins, were opened at different periods during the last century. The stone coffin in which lay the corpse of Hugo, the founder of the priory of Blithsburgh, was raised in 1785, after it had remained undisturbed, for upwards of six hundred years. In this coffin were all the bones, in a tolerably entire state, but moist, and a quantity of mould, supposed to be the remains of a decayed wooden coffin, by which the body was first enveloped. The tomb of Sir Robert, who slew Sir William Handsacre,* lord of the

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neighbouring

tongue, preserves silence. There is a ring in the centre, through which a cord was put to lead the culprit to the churchyard, where she was obliged to remain till she promised reformation.

* This melancholy catastrophe was the consequence of the civil contentions which disturbed the kingdom, when Richard the second was deposed, and Henry the fourth took possession of the throne. Sir Robert espoused the cause of the usurper, and Sir William, that of the unfortunate Richard. Each assembled his vassals, and began their march to join the armies, then lying in view of each other near Shrewsbury; but unfortunately meeting, a skirmish ensued, in which Sir William was slain on the spot. Sir Robert proceeded to the royal army, and soon after met his fate, fighting against the gallant Percy. What a dreadful picture does this accident exhibit of the miseries of civil discord! What a tale is the following, of the sudden vicissitude of hatred to love, between contending families! Margaret, one of the daughters and co-heiress of Sir Robert Maveston, gave her hand to Sir William, son of the knight slain by her father; and with her person and fortune, compensated the injury done by her house to that of Handsacre!! Pennant's Journey, p. 118, 119. ex Erdeswick.

neighbouring manor of *Handsacre*, in the reign of Henry the fourth, is a very handsome one in the shape of an altar. His figure armed and helmed, with a great sword on one side, and a dagger on the other, is engraven on the incumbent alabaster slab, with the following inscription :

Hic jacet Dns Robertus de Mauvesine, miles. Dns de Mauvesine Ridware qui occubuit juxta Salopiam, 1403 stans cum rege, dimicans ex parte sua usque ad mortem, cujus animas propitiatur Deus.

The priory of Benedictine monks, already mentioned, was situated in a sequestered valley, on the southern bank of the river Blythe, and probably on the site of an older cell of Saxon *religieuse*. It was early united to the monastery at Breewood, and was one of the number of those which were suppressed and seized by Cardinal Wolsey, in 1534, to endow his intended colleges at Oxford and Ipswich. A farm house now occupies the original foundation ; but vestiges of the ancient building can still be discovered, and many bodies have been dug up here and in the adjacent grounds.

Armitage village and parish lies immediately south, from *Mavesin Ridware*. It was formerly called *Hermitage*, from a tradition that a hermit resided in a sequestered spot here between the river and the church, which is situated on a rocky eminence, and forms a most beautiful and picturesque object. The principal entrance to this edifice is curiously built, and adorned in the Saxon style. Some paintings on glass, and tabernacle work, embellish the windows ; and the chancel is separated from the nave, by a handsome zig zag arch. At a little distance from the church, is a moated fragment of the rival house of *Handsacre*, a hamlet in this parish, founded by bishop Clinton ; and not far from hence was lately discovered the foundation of some very ancient religious edifice. In the pleasure grounds of Mr. Lister, the grand trunk canal passes through a very noble subterraneous cavern, or tunnel.

Longdon,

Longdon, lying south from Armitage, is a village of great length. Hence the common saying in these parts :

The stoutest beggar that goes by the way,
Cannot beg thro' *Long* in a summer's day.

It was formerly very much crowded with gentlemen's seats. The manor is of great extent, above thirty other manors, lordships, and villages, owing suit and service to the court leet which is held here every three weeks. The church stands apart from the village, and is dedicated to St. James.

The mansion house of Beaudesert,* the seat of the Earl of Uxbridge, constitutes the chief ornament of the parish. It is situated on the declivity of a lofty sloping eminence, sheltered above, by beautiful rising grounds, and wholly enveloped in trees of the finest and most luxuriant growth. The exterior appearance of the house is very magnificent, having been greatly improved, and embellished by the late noble owner. It is built of stone, in the form of a half H; the front entrance being under a neat and light old portico, which leads into a very handsome Gothic hall, 80 feet by 31, with a lofty arched ceiling, and adorned at the west end by a most splendid window, on which are painted the arms of the first Sir William Paget and Preston, whose daughter he married. Proceeding from the house to the summit of the hill, are traces of an extensive encampment, called *Castlehill*, which Mr. Pennant† conceives to have been of British origin, in opposition to Dr. Plot,‡ who considered it as the work of king *Canute*. It is surrounded by a vast rampart and two ditches; and is nearly circular, except on the south side where it is straight, so that it bears a strong resemblance in form to a theatre. The two entrances are opposite to each other, facing east and west; and before the former are several advanced works. This was certainly a spot

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well

* Pennant's Journey, p. 132.

† Plot's Nat. Hist. Staff. p. 41B.

‡ This place was once the residence of the bishops of Lichfield. Gough's *Antiquities*, Vol II. p. 496.

well chosen for an encampment, as it commands a very noble and extensive view, over no less than nine counties in England and Wales.*

Longdon parish produces a great supply of coal. A certain species of this mineral, termed *cannel coal*, is found in considerable abundance; and, on account of the fine polish it takes, is used in making a variety of articles both useful and ornamental.

Leaving Longdon on the road to Lichfield, the traveller passes *Fairwell*, a small village, remarkable only for the antique structure, and picturesque situation, of its church, which was formerly conventual, and belonged to a priory of Benedictine Nuns. In taking down the old nunnery chapel here in 1747 three rows of coarse earthen vessels of various dimensions, and placed on their sides, were discovered about six feet beneath the surface of the ground. The mouths of these vessels were laid towards the church, and covered with a thin coat of plaster.

LICHFIELD.

This city is supposed to owe its origin to the Saxons, and to have risen on the ruins of the Roman *Etocetum* or Wall. Respecting the etymology and signification of its name different opinions are entertained by antiquaries. It is called by Bede, *Licidfeld*; by Ingulphus and Huntingdon *Lichfeld*; *Licetisfeld* by Simon Dunelm; *Lichesfelde* by Brompton; *Lichesfeld* by Gervase; and *Lychefeld* by Knighton; which Ross of Warwick and some others translate *Campus cadaverum*, i. e. *the field of dead bodies*,† from a tradition that upwards of a thousand Christians

* Shaw's Hist. Vol. I. p. 231.

† The memorial of the church of Lichfield says, it derived its name of Liches from war. *Anglia Sacra*, Vol. I. p. 439. Mr. Jackson, who says it was anciently called Lichenfeld, upon what authority he does not mention,

nians were massacred here in the reign of Dioclesian.* Dr. Stukely, however, justly considering this legend as fabulous, tells us, it certainly derived its name from its marshy situation, the words *lich*, *lece*, *lec*, or *lace*, in Saxon, signifying a bog or morass.†

The condition of this town, prior to the time of its being erected into a bishopric by Oswy, the conqueror of Mercia, about the year 665, is totally unknown. It does not even appear to what causes it owed the distinction, which it then acquired, of being made the seat of the cathedral church of one of the finest, if not the most powerful, of the Saxon kingdoms. That it was not a place of much importance, we may reasonably conclude from the fact, that several centuries posterior to this event, it was only a mean village, and on that account deemed unworthy to retain the honour of forming an episcopal see.‡ Bishop Clinton, however, restored to it its lost dignity. He also environed the town with a ditch, and fortified the castle, furnishing the same with sufficient maintenance for a garrison of soldiers. At this period three large pools of water intersected the town of Lichfield. Bishop Langton built a large bridge over the principal one in the time of Edward the first. In the thirty-third year of this reign, representatives were first sent by this town to Parliament; it was then governed by a Guild and *Guildmaster*, words of Saxon origin, signifying a fraternity, which "unites and flings its effects into a common stock, and is derived from *Gildan*, to pay."§ Richard the first invested it with the right of purchasing lands to the value of

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gives it the same translation with Ross, asserting that *Lichen*, in Saxon, signifies a dead body. Dr. Johnson calls *Lichfield*; the "field of the dead," and adds, *Lichgate* signifies the gate through which the dead are carried to the grave. Jackson's Hist. p. 1. Johnson's Eng. Dict.

* There is a spot within the precincts of the city still called *Christian field*, as it is said, in memory of this event. Harwood's Lichfield, p. 2.

† This was actually the situation of Lichfield in ancient times.

‡ Vide ante, p. 787.

§ Pennant's Journey, p. 155, 156.

Spelman, 260.

ten pounds; but it was not formed into a regular corporation till the first year of the reign of Edward the sixth,* when it was elevated to the dignity of a city, and incorporated by the style "of bailiffs, burgesses, citizens, and commonalty, of the same." The same prince restored to it the privilege of deputed members to Parliament, which it had not enjoyed from the twenty seventh year of the reign of Edward the third. This charter was confirmed, and many other rights and immunities conferred on the citizens, successively by queen Mary, Elizabeth, James the first, and Charles the second, as marks of the high sense they entertained of their steady loyalty, even in the most troublesome and difficult times.†

The city of Lichfield is now governed by a recorder, high steward, two bailiffs, a town clerk, and coroner. The senior bailiff is elected by the bishop, keeps part of the seal, and is escheator; but his colleague, and all the other magistrates and officers, are chosen by the bailiffs and common council, which is composed of twenty one brethren elected from among the citizens. The recorder and steward, are magistrates for life; and, together with the bailiffs and justices, have power to hold courts of gaol delivery, and to award sentence of death, or other punishments, upon offenders. The city and its suburbs form a distinct county from Staffordshire.‡ Within this district

* Gough's Camden, Vol II. p. 512.

† James the second having procured a surrender of the ancient charters granted the citizens a new one, in which he incorporated them by the style and title of Mayor and Aldermen, but made some arbitrary reservations. In 1688, when the king's affairs began to grow desperate, and he found it necessary to review his arbitrary measures, he published a proclamation for restoring corporations to their ancient privileges. In consequence of this, the new charter, and all proceedings upon it, were rescinded, and the corporation reverted to the charter by K. Charles II. Harwood's Lichfield, p. 349, 351.

‡ The city and county comprise a circuit of about 16 miles, which the sheriffs, with numerous attendants, annually perambulates on the eighth of September, the nativity of the blessed virgin Mary. Harwood's Lich. p. 348. Jackson's Hist. p. 5.

trict the corporation has exclusive jurisdiction. A court of record is held here by the authority of the bailiffs for the recovery of debts, amounting to 40s. and upwards. Such pleas as cannot be determined in this court must be tried before the justices next "Coming into the city, and not out of the city, or before any other justices." There are, likewise, courts of gaol delivery, quarter sessions, and Pie Powdre, besides several annual courts, as the Court of Array, the great Portmote court, and the court of the View of Frank-pledge.

Of these courts, the Court of Array is the only one we deem it necessary to notice particularly. It is held on every Whit-Monday in the Guild-hall, from whence it is immediately adjourned to *Greenhill*, an open mount, situated in the parish of St. Michael's. Here a temporary bower of wood is erected for the occasion. The constables of the city, attended by armed men, morrice (or moresque) dancers, &c. escort the sheriff, town-clerk, and bailiffs, to this place, where the style and title of the court are proclaimed by the public cryer. Then are the names of all the householders of the twenty-one wards of the city called over as owing suit and service to the court; and, if they fail to appear, they are subjected to a small fine. The dozers or petty constables, likewise, attend with emblems of their respective trades, or other devices, and deliver rolls containing the name of every man resident within their respective districts. During the day the High constables, accompanied by dancers and armed men, perambulate the city, the latter firing a volley over each house. The dancers appear in their shirts, having ribbands of different colours tied round their necks, and slung across their shoulders, dancing sara-bands, chacons, &c. in imitation of the Moors. The whole concludes with a procession through the principal streets to the market-place, when the town clerk, in name of the bailiffs and citizens, addresses the constables and others, in a complimentary speech, and exhorts them to be loyal to their king, and to exert

exert themselves on all occasions, to promote the interests of the city.*

Lichfield enjoys a healthful and agreeable situation, being placed in a fine valley, surrounded by hills of a moderate height and easy ascent, at the distance of 119 miles from London, and nearly in the centre of England. The houses are in general built according to the taste of modern times; and are, for the most part, occupied by gentry, and persons of small independent fortunes. There is here, however, a considerable manufacture of sail cloth, and some others on a smaller scale, which employ a good number of hands. The town is now entirely open, and probably never was walled, at least no appearances of its having been so are to be discovered at the present day. Neither do any vestiges of the ditches formed by bishop Clinton remain, except the foot path, called *Castle ditch*, leading from John Street to the eastern division of the town; may be regarded as a portion of one of them; for which supposition, however, the name is the only foundation. The castle itself has, likewise, been long entirely demolished; and, though known to have stood near this place, the precise spot is

*The origin of this remarkable court is unknown, having existed long prior to the date of any of the royal charters. Various conjectures, however, have supplied the place of historical record. Some suppose it to be an institution of king Oswy's, in memory of a victory obtained by him over the pagan king Penda, while others conclude that it is founded upon an act passed in the reign of Henry the second, and confirmed by several of his successors, enacting that the high constables of every town should oftentimes view the arms and armour of the men in their franchise or liberty. The latter opinion is certainly more probable than the former.

† Mr. Pennant thinks it probable that it was in this castle king Richard spent his Christmas in 1397, when he consumed 200 tuns of wine, and two thousand oxen; but Stowe says, he kept it in the close. Here, however, it is sufficiently certain, that he was confined, when on his way to London, as a prisoner. From this fortress he attempted to escape, by slipping down from the window of his room into a garden; but being unfortunately observed by a gendarme, he was secured and reconducted to his confinement. Stowe's Chronicle, p. 318, 322. Pennant's Journey, p. 157.

is not exactly ascertained. The town is still divided into two portions, the city and the close, by a large sheet of water, which contributes not a little to its beauty. The close is of exempt jurisdiction, and wholly independent both of Lichfield and the county of Stafford, the residentiary dean and canons being sole justices within its precincts. This district, which stands upon much higher ground than the rest of the town, having been fortified, stood several vigorous sieges, during the period of the great rebellion. The first of these happened in March 1643, when Sir Richard Dyott, and some of the principal gentlemen of the county, under the earl of Chesterfield held it for the king, and were attacked by lord Brook and Sir John Gell, generals in the parliamentary army. The former of these last mentioned officers, a zealous puritan, is said to have drawn up his army within half a mile of the town; and, having vowed the destruction of the cathedral, implored the divine assistance in the accomplishment of his intended purpose. He then advanced into the city, and raised a battery in Dam Street over against the east gate of the close. But his lordship, having stationed himself under the porch of a small house immediately adjoining in order to superintend the progress of the attack, was shot through the eye by a gentleman of the Dyott family, who happened to observe him from the top of the battlements of the chief steeple of the cathedral.* The death of their commander, however, did not much discourage the parliamentary forces, who continued the siege with great vigour under the conduct of Sir John Gell, and shortly after induced the garrison to surrender upon the "condition of free quarters to all in general within the close."† The rebels having left a strong body of troops to defend this post, these were in their turn

* The spot on which he fell is now distinguished by a pavement of white pebbles, and a marble tablet with an inscription in memory of the event which, having happened on the anniversary of St. Chad, patron of the cathedral, was attributed by the superstitious among the cavaliers to the influence of that saint, as a punishment for the impious vow, noticed in the text.

† Shaw's Staffordshire, Vol. I. p. 240.

turn besieged the month following by prince Rupert, who marched hither immediately after the reduction of Birmingham. Colonel Russel, the governor, made a brave resistance; but having lost a great number of men in an assault, and being anxious to prevent any unnecessary effusion of human blood, capitulated upon honourable terms, on the 21st of April. From this period the loyalists continued to possess the close, till about twelve months subsequent to the battle of Naseby; when, being satisfied that the king's affairs were desperate, they delivered it up to the Parliament, whose army under Major General Lottian had invested it for a considerable time.

The cathedral church situated in the close is an object of just veneration, and one of the noblest religious fabrics in this country. The period at which this church was originally founded is uncertain; but that event is generally supposed to have taken place about the year 667, during the bishopric of Juran, the immediate predecessor of St. Chad.* It was rebuilt in 700, by bishop Headda, or Hedda, who dedicated it to that saint, and removed his bones hither from Stowe church, where he had been previously interred. Roger de Clinton, whose beneficence to this city we have already mentioned, demolished this building, and erected a great part of the present magnificent edifice. Walter de Langton, who succeeded to the bishopric, in 1296, built that portion of it, which is called St. Mary's chapel, as well as the cloisters; and, besides, expended 2,000*l.* in raising a shrine to the memory of St. Chad. This splendid monument, and much of the other riches of the cathedral, were seized by Henry the eighth at the time of the dissolution. The buildings themselves, however, continued in good

* Upon this supposition the church built by Oswy in 656 (when he constituted Lichfield an episcopal see,) and dedicated by him to St. Peter and St. Mary, cannot have stood upon this spot: if it did, it is clear the original foundation of the cathedral must have taken place *then*, as the mother church of every bishop's diocese is a cathedral. For our part we are of opinion that the church which Oswy begun was not finished till the time of Juran.

good condition till the period of the sieges, above detailed, when they suffered very considerable damage, not only from the fire of the batteries and musquetry, but also from the rapacity of the republican army. The honour of renewing them, was reserved for bishop Hacket,* who was appointed to this see immediately after the Restoration. The very morning following his arrival, he set his own servants and horses with teams to remove the rubbish, and lay the first hand to the work he meditated. By money contributed by himself and the dean and chapter, and obtained through his exertions, from the gentlemen of his diocese, he was enabled to restore this noble pile to its former splendour. In 1788 it again underwent a thorough repair by subscription, under the superintendence of Mr. James Wyatt of London.

To describe accurately the present and past condition of this cathedral and the various ornaments, whether monumental or otherwise, with which it is either now, or has been formerly, embellished would occupy a much larger space than the limits of this work will permit. We must content ourselves, therefore, with a brief notice of the more prominent circumstances by which it is distinguished. The extent of the whole building from east to west † is 411 feet in length, and from north to south

* A noble instance of magnanimity and heroic fortitude is recorded of this prelate, during the persecution of the established church by the Puritans. Notwithstanding the severe penalties enacted to prevent it, he continued to read the liturgy regularly in his church of St. Andrew's Holborn. In consequence of this a serjeant, with a file of men, entered the church and threatened him with instant death if he did not desist. "Soldier," said the intrepid Hacket, "I am doing my duty, do you yours," and with a more audible voice proceeded in the service. The soldier, astonished at his undaunted composure, left the church without doing him the slightest injury.

† Dr. Plot observes a remarkable circumstance relative to this church, which is that it declines 27 degrees from the points of east and west. This error, however, was somewhat amended by bishop Langton, who pointed the walls of our Lady's chapel, which he built, much more to the east; hence it is that the walls of this chapel stand bevil to those of the church, as may be noticed even at a superficial glance. Plot's Staffordshire, p. 362.

south 67 feet in breadth. It is surmounted by three elegant steeples, one in the centre of the edifice and two at the west end. The height of the former is 256 feet, and of the latter 188 feet each. The western front formerly exhibited a most splendid display of finely wrought figures, the subjects of which were derived from scripture history. A great part of these were much defaced during the attacks made on the close at the time of the rebellion; but were either repaired or replaced by bishop Hacket. Time, however, has again considerably injured them; and in 1749 several were removed by order of the dean and chapter to the perpetual deformity of this beautiful structure. On the top of the roof, betwixt the two spires, stands the image of *Charles II*, who had contributed a liberal donation of timber towards the repair of the church. It is the work of Sir *William Wilson*, originally a stone mason at Sutton Colfield, who arrived at knighthood after his marriage with a rich widow; but, according to Mr. Pennant, does very little honour to his genius as a sculptor. This statue is supposed to occupy the situation of a more ancient one of Adam, or Christ; as both sides of the towers were adorned with figures of the old patriarchs. The lower rows of figures were probably intended to represent prophets, prophetesses, and judges, together with the kings of Israel and Judah in various postures. King David is distinguished by his playing upon the harp. The statue of a person in pontifical robes, supposed to be designed for St. Chad, stands exactly over the porch, which is adorned with beautiful sculpture work. Within this porch are placed the four Evangelists, holding the gospels in their hands. Moses and Aaron were situated on the two sides, and in the centre between the great doors is the virgin Mary with the infant Jesus in her arms. These were all formerly richly painted and gilded. A figure of Christ, with his arms extended, appears between two cherubims, on the top of the central pillar. On the outside, the vacant walls between the large and small doors were filled with statues of the twelve apostles.

The

The entrances to this church, both on the south and north sides, are very elegant, particularly the north door which is extremely rich in sculptured mouldings, three of foliage, and three of small figures in oval. In one of the lowest, is represented a bishop in his pontifical robes, baptizing a person kneeling before him with a crosier in his left hand. The former probably is intended to designate St. Chad, and the other Wulphere, the converted pagan king of Mercia, who is said to have murdered his sons because they refused to become apostates to Christianity.* Immediately over the door was the root of Jesse, or the descent of kings; from David to the captivity of the Jews, 14 generations, and from thence to Christ a similar number, and also the descent of priests. The middle pillar supported the image of Christ. Over the south door, also rich in sculpture, appeared the following inscription:

"Hospes, qui ingrederis hanc ecclesiam, cupio te noscere et celebrare magnificentiam illustriss. et pient. heroinae dom. Catharinae Leweson de Trentham, hujus aedis cum miserae vastatae patronae lubentissimae et benignissimae."

On the east side of this door are two ancient monumental statues for deans of this church; but to whom they belong is now unknown. The roof of the cathedral was formerly covered with lead; but being much worn and injured, the metal was some years ago taken off, and slates substituted in its stead, the revenues for the purposes of repair being totally inadequate to the expense of renewing it with lead. Indeed, even after the strictest economy, the dean and chapter were obliged to advance considerable sums from their own pockets before they could complete the plan they had adopted.

The interior of this noble edifice fully answers to the splendour and magnificence of its external structure. The body is spacious and lofty, supported by pillars formed by a variety of slender

* Vide ante, p. 60.

slender columns, with neat foliated capitals.* The numerous grave stones, which anciently distinguished the floor, are now removed, † together with the seats and pulpit in the nave; and the whole is now paved with Derbyshire Hepton stones. The upper rows of windows are of an unusual form, being triangular including three circles in each. Along the walls of the aisles are rows of false Gothic arches, having seats underneath. Previous to the year 1641, all the windows in the church were painted with various effigies and coats of arms of bishops and other eminent characters. Some of them will be found engraved in Mr. Shaw's history of the county. Over the great west doors, which open into the nave, is placed a most magnificent window, of a circular figure, raised at the expense of James duke of York in the reign of Charles the second. The painted glass in this window was the gift of dean Addenbrooke in 1776, as appears from the following inscription underneath:

"The late Rev. Dr. Addenbrooke, who enjoyed this deanery upwards of thirty years, as a memorial of his great regard for the

* The length of the body from the great west door to the choir is 213 feet; its breadth 153 feet, and the breadth of the side aisles 66 feet: the height of the nave is 60 feet. Jackson's Lichfield, p. 109.

† The epitaphs on two of these were very singular. The one was:

"William Roberts of Overbury, some time malster in this town (tells you) for the love I bore to choir service, I chose to be buried in this place. He died Decr. 16th, 1748."

The other gave you the posthumous grief of a deceased wife, and the classical knowledge of the living husband:

H. S. E.

Secundi Horatii, Linca*.

* O ET PRÆSIDIUM ET DULCE DECUS MEUM.

viz.

Elisabetha E Z: Polsted

Maestissima conjux;

quæ obiit ultimo die Martis, 1712.

Pennant's Journey, p. 148, 149.

The late Rev. Dr. Addenbrooke, who enjoyed this deanery upwards of thirty years, as a memorial of his great regard for the cathedral, was at the sole expense of beautifying the west window with painted glass.*

A large mural monument of marble to the memory of Launcelot Addison, father of the celebrated Joseph, with whose life every classical scholar is well acquainted, stands on the north side of the west door. The south side is distinguished by another newly erected one in honour of Hugh Walmsley, Esq. registrar of the ecclesiastical court here. A variety of others, some of them extremely neat, are dispersed through this portion of the cathedral. Among them, to the west of the north door, is a marble one, raised to the memory of Lady Mary Wortley Montagu, by "Henrietta Inge, relict of Theodore, William Inge, Esq. and daughter of Sir John Wrottesley, Bart." This monument consists of a handsome statue, representing the goddess of beauty, weeping over the ashes of her preserver, supposed to lie inclosed in an urn, encyphered, M. W. M. The inscription is long, and dwells chiefly on her merit, as introducing into this country the practice of inoculating for the small pox. In the south transept is a recess which was ancient-

VOL. XIII.

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* Anciently the following inscription appeared here,

Oswynus est Lichfield fundator, sed reparator
 Ossa fuit ; regum fama perennis erit :
 Rex Stephanus, rex Henricus, primusque Ricardus
 Rex et Johannis plurima dona dabant
 Paene haec millenos Ecclesia floruit annos,
 Duret ad extremum nobilis usque diem
 Daque, Deus, longum et floruit haec sacra aegle
 Et celebret nomen plebs ibi sancta tuum.
 Fundata est Ecclesia Merciensis,
 Quae nunc Lichfeldia dicitur
 Facta Cathedralis
 Anno domini
 DCLVII.

Dugdale's Visitation of Staffordshire.

ly inclosed and divided, the one part of it being the dean's consistory and the other the vicar's vestry. Against the wall of the former portion appears the monument of that Hercules of literature, Dr. Samuel Johnson. Upon the pedestal is a bust not very remarkable for its resemblance to the great original.

The opposite side of the same recess is distinguished by a bust of the celebrated Garrick, erected by his widow. The inscription closes with the words of his friend Johnson :

" His death eclipsed the gaiety of nations, and impoverished the public stock of harmless pleasure."

Not far from hence near the south door is situated another elegant mural monument, adorned with a celestial crown and other beautiful sculpture. It was erected to commemorate the virtues and afflictions of " Lucy Grove," wife of Dr. William Grove, of Lichfield close," and deserves notice particularly on account of the epitaph, which is little inferior to the celebrated one by Mason :

" Grief, love and gratitude devote this stone
To her whose virtues bless'd a husband's life,
When late in duty's sphere she mildly shone
As friend, as sister, daughter, mother, wife.
In the bright morn of beauty, joy and wealth
Insidious palsy near his victim drew :
Dashed from her youthful hand the cup of health,
And round her limbs his numbing fetters threw.
Year after year her christian firmness strove
To check the rising sigh, the tear repress ;
Soothe with soft smiles the fears of anxious love,
And heaven's correcting hand in silence bless.
Thus tried her faith, and thus prepared her heart,
The awful call at length, th' Almighty gave,
She heard—resigned to linger or depart :
Bowed her meek head and sunk into the grave.

The choir, and St. Mary chapel, or Lady choir, were formerly separated from each other by a stone screen of most elegant architecture,

architecture, embattled at the top, and adorned with several rows of Gothic niches exquisitely wrought. Each of them originally contained a small statue, and beneath were thirteen stalls adorned with Gothic tracery. This screen was injudiciously removed during the late alterations, and the two choirs thrown into one, to the great injury of the internal appearance of this noble edifice. The length of the choir being now altogether disproportionate to the rest of the building, the effect of the whole is destroyed. St. Mary's chapel built by bishop Langton displays uncommon beauty and magnificence of structure. In this chapel are nine windows, three on each side and three at the end, narrower, but of a more lofty and splendid appearance than any of the others. The slender east windows are filled with painted glass, a considerable part of which was brought by Sir Brooke Boothby, from the dissolved abbey of Herekenrode in the bishopric of Liege; and the purchase generously transferred by him to the dean and chapter. Of this glass there are 840 pieces, each about 52 inches square. The whole may be valued at upwards of ten thousand pounds, but it did not cost the cathedral more than 1100*l.* including the expense of conveyance and fitting up the windows to receive it. The centre window on the same side exhibits a representation of the resurrection, executed by Mr. Eggington of Handsworth, near Birmingham, from a design of Sir Joshua Reynolds. Under here stands an altar of freestone, neatly sculptured in the Gothic or pointed style. This chapel formerly contained the rich shrine already mentioned, as having been raised in honour of St. Chad, and demolished at the period of the dissolution. A very splendid monument to the memory of Lord Paget secretary of state to Henry the eighth afterwards occupied its site, but met with the same fate in the time of the civil wars. This tomb was adorned with columns, of the Corinthian order, having two kneeling figures of a man and woman between the front and back pillars. It was executed in Italy, and esteemed a masterpiece of workmanship. Near

memory of the Rev. J. G. Norbury, one of the prebendaries of the cathedral, and his wife. The monuments in the north aisle are few. One of them in honour of Theophania, daughter of Thomas Coningsby, lord of North Mims in Hertfordshire, and wife of Dr. Smalbridge chaplain to king Charles II. is of marble, and finely enriched with foliated sculpture. A new statue is placed in the centre, with the prayer books or gospels surrounded by cherubs. From this aisle a passage, ornamented with Gothic arched seats, leads to the chapter house, a room of an octangular form, and adorned with arches similar to those in the entrance. The lost pillars are supplied with plaster, and the whole is supported in the centre by a clustered column. Over this room is placed the Library, instituted by dean Heywood, which contains several valuable books and MSS. Among the latter we remarked a valuable ancient copy of the valor of pope Nicholas in the reign of Edward the first; also a curious one called *Textus St. Ceddæ*, or the Gospels of St. Chad; not because they were written by that saint, but merely on account of their belonging to this church. They are chiefly in plain Saxon characters, and illuminated with a variety of extraordinary drawings. The date of the writing is certainly very ancient, according to some, not less than a thousand years back. Here is likewise a koran intituled thus, "This Alcoran was taken from the Turks at the siege of Buda;" besides a folio illuminated chaucer, fairly written, and some architectural drawings executed in France.

To the north of the lady choir is a small chapel, where the remains of two of the Mercian monarchs were deposited. In St. Peter's chapel, now filled with rubbish, there was a painting on the wall of St. Peter crucified with his head downwards; that of the south transept before the late alterations contained a curious fragment of Gothic sculpture. It consisted of two arches, beneath one of which sat a figure crowned, having one hand on a young prince. Under the other appeared another king with
his

his hand resting on his left knee. This was a relic of the ancient church preserved in the rebuilding of it; but being removed in 1788, it became an ornament in the wall of Mr. Greene's stable. The sacristy in which the monks formerly deposited the sacred vessels and other moveables belonging to the church adjoins to the south aisle. Here are the remains of a rich altar piece of Grecian architecture, which formerly terminated the choir, and no less impaired the beauty of the cathedral than the disproportionate length of the choir does at the present day. A number of sepulchral and other remains have been found at different times in this church. The late Rev. Theophilus Buckeridge, a few years ago, discovered under the white-wash a curious ancient painting, which, from a mutilated inscription in old court-hand, is supposed to have been placed there by Oliver de Langton, rector of Wyggan, in the year 1450.

The members of this cathedral are a dean, precentor, chancellor, and treasurer, all of whom have prebends annexed to their offices. The dean and six residentiary canons constitute the chapter, and hold their court in the chapter-house every alternate Friday to hear and determine "causes of instance." They likewise hold weekly hebdomedary chapters on the same day for the general regulation of the church. In all disputes arising within the close an appeal lies from them to the bishop; but no other person whatever has a right to interfere in their decisions. Both the church and close are governed by local statutes. A collection of them was made in the reign of Henry the eighth, when they were confirmed by Cardinal Wolsey as *Legate de latere* to the Pope. These privileges and immunities were conferred by king Edward the fourth, and afterwards confirmed by queen Elizabeth and king James the first. The prebends, independent of those attached to the offices already mentioned, are twenty seven in number. That of *Eccleshall* is annexed to the bishopric. There are twelve minor-canons, five of whom are styled priest-vicars, and the other seven, lay-vicars. The former are denomi-

nated from the dean, precentor, chancellor, treasurer, and the prebendary, of Offley. The other inferior members are a sacrist and subsacrist, organist, eight choristers, and two ringers. The subchanter, sacrist, vicars, and clerks, seem to have been collegiated ever since the prelacy of Hugh de Pattishul, about the year 1240, when houses and some separate estates were made over to them by the dean and chapter. These possessions were afterwards much increased by the bounty of bishops Langton, Bunghill, Blythe, and others. According to an injunction, bearing date the seventh day of April 1374, they seem to have had a common hall, and also a common seal and mace. Their present seal is the same as that used by them in 1340. In the reign of Edward the first an order was issued by that prince requiring the justices of peace for Staffordshire to attach and execute divers persons that forcibly held their lands from them. A curious original instrument, signed by Edward the fourth, and having his seal appended to it, is still preserved with great care among their records. From the terms of this instrument, granting pardon to the college for all offences committed by them, it is reasonably supposed that they had previously shewn some predilection for the Lancastrian party. There was a mansion at Stow to which the superannuated vicars were privileged to retire, retaining an equal portion of the general revenues. King James I. made a demand upon them for the First Fruits, which was resisted, as appears from a curious paper intituled "Casses and reasons whie the Quirysters of the church of Lichfeild should not pay Fyrste Fruits," a copy of which may be found in Mr. Harwood's History of Lichfield.* An ancient custom is still observed by them, at the time of Christmas, of calling upon the inhabitants with a cup, and entreating a contribution either of money or drink. The origin of this custom, which is denominated wassailing, is uncertain.

Besides the cathedral the close contains a variety of buildings, all of which are the property of the church, with the exception

ception of two houses on the south side, adjoining to the pool, which were granted to the city previous to the erection of the bridges or causeways, by bishop Langton, that the inhabitants might have landing places, and access to the cathedral.

The bishop's palace is situated at the north-east corner. The original foundation of this edifice was of very ancient date, and probably only of inconsiderable extent. Bishop Langton rebuilt it in a most magnificent style, in the reign of Edward the first. The great hall, which was an hundred feet long and fifty six broad, displayed paintings of the coronation, marriages, wars, and funeral, of that illustrious monarch, as well as the exploits of some of his officers, among which were those of Sir Roger de Pulesdone against the Welchmen. Many of the figures "very lively pourtrayed with their banners of arms bravely before them," together with descriptions of the subjects represented, were remaining at the commencement of the seventeenth century.* The other apartments in this palace were of proportionate size and splendour with the hall, and behind the whole lay an extensive court, laid out with walks and grass plots. This noble mansion having been demolished, bishop Wood † was enjoined by archbishop Sancroft to renew it as a fine for wasting some portion of the woods belonging to this see. Accordingly he built the present spacious edifice of stone, which has the arms of the bishopric in the front, with the date 1687. The bishops, however, having fixed their residence for many years at Eccleshall castle, this palace is generally occupied by tenants. It has been long inhabited by the family of the late

* Erdeswick's Survey, p. 101.

† According both to Mr. Pennant and Mr. Jackson, this palace was rebuilt by bishop Hacket who immediately preceded bishop Wood in this see. Their statement, however, is contradicted by Mr. Harwood, and his assertion on this subject appears to us correct. Bishop Hacket did not rebuild the palace, but only repaired a prebendal house, which he intended for the residence of himself and his successors; but no act of Parliament was ever obtained by him to annex it to the see with that view. Pennant's Journey, 130. Harwood Lich. p. 66, 290. Jackson Hist. p. 207.

late celebrated Miss Seward whose ingenious poetical productions are well known to every reader of taste.

West from the palace stands the deanery house, rebuilt in the reign of queen Anna, on the site of the ancient one, which seems to have been of very small dimensions. The prebendal houses are situated in different parts of the close. Those on the south west portion of it, enjoyed by the first, fifth, and sixth residentiaries, were built by bishop Halse, who died in 1490, and are probably among the earliest brick buildings in the kingdom. The vicarage consists of two small quadrangles of low built houses placed in the north west corner. The houses anciently called "The New Collage" stand within a court east from the last mentioned residentiary houses; and near them is a new house belonging to the Registrar of the diocese, built in 1796 upon the site of the ancient prebendal house, in which the beneficent bishop Hacket lived and died. Attached to this house is a large hall in which is deposited a valuable and extensive museum, collected and established by Mr. Richard Wright, surgeon in this city. The handsome building faced with stone, which distinguishes the west entrance to the close, was erected at the sole expense, and during the life time, of Andrew Newton, Esq. brother to the late Dr. Newton, bishop of Bristol, for the reception of twenty aged and necessitous widows, or unmarried daughters of clergymen; he has since likewise added a liberal endowment for their support. This structure is supposed by some to occupy the site of the ancient tower built by bishop Clinton, in which king Richard the second was imprisoned, as has been already mentioned. This opinion however, seems to be extremely doubtful; because, if it really stood here, it must have been of very trifling extent; whereas both history and tradition assure us it was a noble and magnificent edifice. The house of the choristers, erected in 1509, and much admired for its Gothic elegance, formerly stood on the north side of the close.

Immediately in front of the centre of this building was a
gatehouse

gatehouse of freestone, which exhibited a most beautiful specimen of ancient art. The noble gate at the west entrance, after having remained unimpaired during a period of five centuries, notwithstanding the destruction which assailed every edifice around it, was taken down in 1800, in order to widen the road into the close. This gate, the work of bishop Langton, was furnished with portcullis of great strength and majesty, and had a tower over it, finished by his successor bishop Northburgh. Another splendid gate also erected by bishop Langton formed the southern approach, to the close. To the east of this spot there still stands one of the four ancient towers which were placed at its four angles. Under this tower, at the depth of fifteen feet, a subterraneous passage was discovered in 1804, supposed to lead from the cathedral, and to have been excavated at the period of the civil war in the reign of Charles the first. The close is supplied with water from Mapplebaya. The ancient stone cross conduit, said to have been of excellent workmanship, has given place to an ordinary pump.

Having said thus much respecting the close and its buildings, it will now be proper to turn our attention again to the city, which is divided into three parishes; St. Mary's, St. Chad's, and St. Michael's.

The parish of St. Mary's occupies the central portion of the town. The church, situated on the south side of the market place, is generally reputed to have been originally founded as early as 855, in the eighteenth year of the reign of king Ethelwolfe. The authority upon which this idea rests, is an inscription, copied from the old steeple; but there seems every reason to believe it has been erroneously transcribed, as Lichfield did not contain more than a few cottages at that remote period. Leland calls this church "a right beautiful piece of work in the very market place." The old building being much decayed was taken down in 1717, and the present edifice erected on the same site. In point of exterior architecture it is sufficiently neat, and the inside is fitted up with oak pews, and adorned

adorned with a spacious gallery, around which many of the benefactions to the parish are recorded. The altar-piece is handsome, and on the north side of it is a place of sepulture of the Dyott family, where stands an antique monument to the memory of Sir Richard Dyott, so celebrated in this county for his attachment to the unfortunate house of Stuart. In this church the master and brethren of the guild of the blessed Mary had a chantry in which their five priests officiated till the dissolution. The services of the church were then performed by the members of the cathedral.

The *Market House*, a light building of brick, is placed at a little distance from this edifice, upon a spot formerly occupied by a very handsome market cross, erected by dean Denton. It was composed of eight arches, surmounted by carved rails or banisters, on the top of which statues of eight of our Saviour's apostles were fixed, each carrying the emblem of his death, curiously carved to the life, in their several habits.

The market days are on Tuesdays and Fridays, when supplies of every kind of food are amply provided. In Bore Street, adjoining to the south end of Bread Market Street, stands the *Guildhall*, anciently appropriated to the meetings of the religious fraternity of St. Mary and St. John the Baptist, and which the corporation now use for public purposes. It is a neat stone edifice adorned with the city arms, an escutcheon with dead bodies slain, and a basso relievo of the cathedral. The front hall is spacious, and behind are several smaller apartments, in which the members transact the business of the city. Underneath is a *gaol* where debtors and felons apprehended within the limits of the county of Lichfield are confined. The *theatre*, also situated in this street, is a small building with a stucco front, erected in 1790, and now the property of a society of Gentlemen. In a garden near it a large pot of half crowns, coined by Charles the first, was discovered about 34 years ago, and at the south-west corner of the street is an *English School*, founded and endowed by Thomas Minors, Esq. in 1670, "to teach thirty poor boys of
this

this city to read the psalter and bible in English." West from the school are the gates leading to a pleasant seat, called the Friary, because formerly the site of a conventual church or monastery belonging to the order of Franciscans, Grey Friars, or Friars Minor. It was founded about the year 1229 by bishop Stavenby, but was all burned to the ground, except the church, in 1291, when a dreadful fire destroyed the greater part of the city. After the dissolution, this church was allowed to remain for some time in a state of desolation. In 1545, however, it was totally demolished, and the present mansion erected, which has since been occupied by several of the most respectable gentlemen in the county, and among the rest by the late William Inge, Esq. whose abilities and integrity as a justice of the peace gained him the applause of lord Mansfield, and the confidence of the people. The duke of Cumberland had his head quarters here, when the king's army was stationed at Lichfield in 1745.

On the north side of this building, in a spot supposed to have been the situation of the conventual cemetery, a number of human skeletons were discovered some years ago, and east from it, there still remains a very old mural monument with a cross fleury, surrounded by a curious inscription in ancient characters, of which the following translation appeared in the Gentleman's Magazine :*

" Richard the merchant here extended lies,
 Death, like a step-dame, gladly clos'd his eyes;
 No more he trades beyond the burning zone,
 But happy rests beneath this sacred stone.
 His benefactions to the church were great;
 Tho' young he hasten'd from this mortal state.
 May he, tho' dead in trade, successful prove
 St. Michael's merchant in the realms above."

Bridge-street, or as it is now vulgarly called Bird-street, is the principal one in the city, the road from Chester to London passing through it. Next to this street is Beacon or Bacon-street,

* Gent. Mag. 1746.

street, which was long honoured by the residence of the late learned and ingenious Dr. Darwin. It was nearly burnt to the ground during the civil war, but is again well built and populous. In this street is the George Inn, the landlord of which in 1707 is drawn under the character of Boniface in Farquhar's admired comedy of the *Beaux Stratagem*. *Lady Biddulph*, who then occupied the bishop's palace, was supposed to have been personated in the character of Lady Bountiful. *Cherry* was the daughter of one Harrison, likewise for sometime landlord of the George.

In St. John Street, which runs off from the street last mentioned in a southern direction, stands the *Free Grammar School*, founded by king Edward the sixth. The school room is of large dimensions, and probably coeval with the institution itself. The other parts of the buildings, however, were rebuilt in 1697. At this school some of the greatest men whose names throw a lustre on the literary annals of the last century, received the rudiments of their education. Among the more distinguished of them were Addison, Woolaston, Astmole, Garrick, and Johnson. Such of them as were natives of the city will be noticed hereafter. Nearly opposite this school is the *Hospital of St. John*, originally a monastery. The period at which it was first founded is unknown; but it was doubtless prior to the commencement of the 12th century, as we find, that in 1130 Roger de Clinton revised and amended a code of statutes said to have been "*anciently*" made for the government of its friars. Having been destroyed, probably by order of Henry the sixth, in the nineteenth year of his reign, when he demolished so many religious structures, it was rebuilt by bishop Smith, and by him endowed as an hospital and chapel, dedicated to St. John, for the support of a master and thirteen poor men. This hospital, though deprived of part of its original property, still possesses a handsome estate, and is in every respect in a flourishing condition. As a building it is very remarkable for the number and curious form of the chimnies, which are placed

in its front. The chapel is built of stone, and has withstood the ravages of time for several centuries, having been the ancient chapel of the priory before its re-erection by bishop Smith. It is neatly paved, and contains a very handsome monument with this inscription underneath an urn :

" Omne Capra movet Urna nomen.

The parish of St. Chad, lying on the north-east of Lichfield, occupies a considerable portion of the city and its suburbs. The church is of very ancient erection, being originally founded at a period long prior to the date of the cathedral.* It derived its name from the circumstance of St. Chad having had his cell here before he was appointed to the bishopric as mentioned in an earlier part of this work. The interior of the church is extremely neat, having of late years undergone a thorough repair. In the north aisles is placed a very ancient font. Here also in former times stood the shrine of St. Catherine, whose chantry priest had a stipend from the vicars choral of the cathedral. Some of the monuments display considerable taste in their execution, but are not of sufficient interest to claim particular description. In a small garden, adjoining to the church on the west, is the well, called St. Chad's well, where that saint first held his oratory, and which was anciently frequented by a vast number of pious devotees. Even at this day it is customary for the clergyman, attended by the churchwardens and a great concourse of children, to visit this well on holy Thursday, (Ascension day) when it is adorned with boughs and flowers, and the gospel for the day is read. The water, which is of a milky colour, is supposed to possess considerable medicinal virtues.

In a part of Bacon Street, which is situated in this parish, stands an hospital for fifteen poor women, commonly called *Dr. Milley's Hospital*, because rebuilt and endowed by him in 1504.

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* Some say it was founded by the Romans towards the end of the second century.

on the site of an older original edifice erected by bishop Heyworth for the same benevolent purpose. Each of the women occupy separate apartments, and receives 1s. 6d. weekly, besides 12 11s. 6d. every quarter. *Christian Field*, already so often mentioned, is situated near Stickbrook in this parish, but at a little distance from the city.

On the eastern part of the city, and comprehending some part of it within its limits, lies the parish of St. Michael's. The church, which is situated on the mount called Greenhill, is particularly remarkable for the extent of its cemetery, which contains no less than seven acres of ground. It is an old fabric with a lofty spire probably erected in the reign of Henry the seventh. Numerous monuments, both ancient and modern, ornamented this edifice; but the limits prescribed to this work will not admit of their being particularly described, seeing they do not possess any peculiar interest. This church has neither tithes nor glebe attached to it. The living is a perpetual curacy in the presentation of the vicar of St. Mary's.

Among the many distinguished characters born at Lichfield was ELIAS ASHMOLE, or ASMOLE. This gentleman's birth took place on the 23d of May 1617. Having shewn a genius for music, his friends had him instructed in it, and admitted as a chorister of the cathedral. While yet very young he removed to London, and became a resident in the family of his maternal uncle James Paget, Esq. puisne baron of the exchequer, to whose friendship he was greatly indebted for his future elevation. In 1638 he became a solicitor in chancery, and some years subsequent, an attorney in the court of Common Pleas; but soon after, the city of London being in a very disturbed state, he retired to Cheshire. In 1644 he entered himself of Brazen Nose College Oxford, where he prosecuted his philosophical studies with great assiduity and success. On the 9th of May 1645, he was appointed one of the gentlemen of the ordnance in the garrison of that city, from whence he removed to Worcester, where he was commissioner, receiver, and registrar of the

excise, as also captain in lord Ashley's regiment, and comptroller of the ordnance. Upon the surrender of Worcester, he withdrew once more to Cheshire; but remained in that county only a few months, and then returned to London. He now became acquainted with Sir Jonas Moore, Mr. Lilly, and Mr. Booker, at that time regarded as the first astrologers in Europe, who received him into their fraternity, and elected him steward of their annual feast. After two years' residence in the metropolis he retired to the village of Englefield in Berkshire, where he first was introduced to lady Mainwaring, whom he married in November 1649. In consequence of this event he settled in London, and had the felicity of seeing his house frequented by most of the learned and ingenious men of his day. In 1650 he published two treatises relative to the philosopher's stone, one of which was written by Dr. Arthur Dee, and the other by an unknown author; and two years after, appeared his "*Theatrum Chemicum Britannicum*," being a collection of such productions of the English chemists as then remained unpublished. This work he intended to have carried on through several volumes; but turning his attention particularly to antiquities and records he dropped this design. Having always shewn himself a zealous loyalist, he was in great favour with Charles the second, to whom he was introduced after the Restoration, and who bestowed on him the office of Windsor-herald, and a few days afterwards appointed him to give a description of his medals, which he did greatly to the king's satisfaction. In the year 1661 he was admitted a fellow of the Royal Society, and in February following constituted secretary of Surinam in the West Indies. The university of Oxford created him Doctor of Physic by diploma in July 1669. About this time he visited his native city, and was splendidly entertained by the corporation to whom, as well as to the choristers of the cathedral, he had made some valuable presents. In May 1673 his great work on the noble order of the Garter, for which he had been making collections during many years, was presented to his

Majesty, who approved of it so highly, upon perusal, that he granted him a privy seal for 400*l.* out of the custom of paper. Indeed, it must be allowed that it has the merit of great research and solid reasoning. In January 1679 he was so unfortunate as to lose his noble library together with a vast collection of coins, seals, charters, and other antiquities, by a fire which consumed his chambers in the temple. His manuscripts and his valuable gold medals were happily preserved, having been removed some time before to his house at Lambeth. These with many other curiosities he presented to the University of Oxford; and at his death, which took place in 1692, he further bequeathed to the same learned body the whole of his library and manuscripts. This collection, much to the honour of the university, has ever since been carefully preserved under the name of the "Ashmolean Museum."*

George Smallridge, an English prelate and very elegant writer, was born here in 1666. He was educated at Westminster school, and while very young distinguished himself by his classical acquirements. In 1682 he became a student in Christ church college Oxford, where he in due time took the several degrees in arts and divinity. At the age of 21 he made his *debut*, as an author, by publishing a work intituled "Animadversions on a Piece upon Church Government." In 1689 appeared a Latin poem, "Auctio Davisiana Oxonii habita per Gul. Cooper et Edw. Millington Bibliopolas Londinenses." Shortly after this period he went into orders, and having passed through several inferior stations in the church, kissed hands as bishop of Bristol in 1714. Upon the accession of the house of Brunswick to the throne, he was lord Almoner to the king, but lost that situation for refusing, in conjunction with bishop Atterbury, to sign the declaration of the archbishop of Canterbury and the bishops near London, against the rebellion in 1715. From his correspondence with the celebrated Whiston he became so suspected of Arianism, as to render it necessary for him to address a letter to the bishop of Winchester, vindicating himself from

from the charge. His other publications, besides those already mentioned, were some volumes of sermons, many of which are written in a pure and chaste style. This prelate died on the 17th day of September 1719.*

THOMAS NEWTON, bishop of Bristol, was born in 1703, and received the early part of his education at the Free School. When thirteen years of age he removed to Westminster, and became a king's scholar the year following. In 1723 he was elected to Trinity college Cambridge, where having taken the several degrees in arts, he was chosen fellow, and went into orders, soon after which event he set out for London, and was appointed curate at St. George's, Hanover Square. After passing through some inferior gradations, Mr. Newton arrived at the dignity of rector of St. Mary le Bow, by the interest of the earl of Bath, in whose family he was first chaplain. This happened in 1744; and, a few months subsequent, he took his degree of doctor of divinity. During the period of the rebellion he greatly distinguished himself by the spirited loyalty of his sermons; and on that account had many threatening letters sent to him, which, by the advice of lord Bath, he transmitted to the Secretary of state. In 1747 he was chosen lecturer at St. George's, Hanover Square, where he preached a sermon on the death of Frederick prince of Wales, so highly acceptable to the princess dowager that she named him her chaplain. About three years after he was made chaplain to the king, prebendary of Westminster, and precentor of York, and in 1761 was elevated by his majesty to the bishopric of Bristol, to which was annexed a residentiaryship of St. Paul's, exchanged for the deanery in 1768. His lordship was twice married, and died in 1783 in the 79th year of his age. He was a man of considerable learning, and great piety. His principal work, intituled "Dissertations on the Prophecies," is thought to possess great merit and ability by the orthodox churchmen.

But the most eminent character and greatest writer to which

F f 2

Lichfield

* Gen. Biog. Dict.

Lichfield has given birth was DR. SAMUEL JOHNSON, who was born on the seventh of September 1709. His father, who was a bookseller by trade, perceiving strong marks of genius in his son at a very early period, gave him every opportunity he could afford of improving his mind. After passing some time at the free school in this city, he went for a year to the school of Mr. Wentworth at Stourbridge in Worcestershire. He entered as a commoner at Pembroke college, Oxford, in 1728, being then, according to the learned Dr. Adams, the best qualified young man that he ever remembered to have seen admitted. During his stay at the university he composed a Latin version of Pope's Messiah, of which the poet is reported to have said that the author would leave it a question for posterity which poem had been the original. Unfortunately the low state of his finances obliged him to quit Oxford before he was enabled to complete his studies, upon which he returned to Lichfield. Shortly after this event he lost his father, and found, on the division of his effects, that his own share amounted to only twenty pounds. When thus destitute of support, the place of usher to a school at Bosworth was offered to him; but, upon trial, he found it impossible to retain the situation owing to the tyrannical conduct of his patron, and consequently removed to Birmingham, where he commenced his career of authorship by publishing a translation of "Lobo." In 1734 he issued proposals for the works of Politian; but, not meeting with encouragement, the plan was abandoned. Somewhat more than a year from this period he married Mrs. Porter, a widow of Birmingham, who possessed a fortune of 800*l.* with which he fitted up a house for a school at Edial in the neighbourhood of his native city. The want of encouragement was again fatal to his views, he having only obtained three scholars, one of whom was the celebrated David Garrick. Giving up this pursuit, he formed the intention of setting off to London, and was accompanied on his journey by his afterwards distinguished pupil. His first literary connection here was with Mr. Cave.

the

the editor of the *Gentleman's Magazine*, who employed him to furnish succinct reports of the Parliamentary debates. The tragedy of *Irene*, which he had been engaged in composing for several years, was now offered to Mr. Fleetwood the manager of Drury Lane theatre; but, probably for want of some proper recommendation, was rejected. At this time Johnson became intimate with the unfortunate Savage, whose life he afterwards wrote. He likewise about the same period published his poem of "London," which gained him considerable celebrity, and passed through a second edition in the course of a week.

Notwithstanding this success, for which he was in some measure indebted to the approbation of Pope, he does not seem to have found his pecuniary circumstances likely to be improved by pursuing the career of authorship; for not many months after this period he made every effort in his power to obtain the mastership of a free school in Leicestershire. The want of a degree in arts occasioned his failure in this object, though he was warmly recommended by lord Gower. His application for admission at Doctors Commons was rejected also because he had not a degree in civil law. Thus baffled in all his projects of obtaining some fixed profession, he was compelled to continue the hazardous and laborious one, in which he had already engaged. Accordingly in 1739 he published his "*Marmor Norfolciense*," an anonymous attack upon the ministry and the house of Hanover. From this period till the year 1744, when his life of Savage was reprinted, he appears to have confined his attention solely to the furnishing of memoirs of eminent men for the *Gentleman's Magazine*; at least, if he wrote any other works, none of them ever came before the public. In 1747 he began his edition of Shakespeare, and about the same time published the plan of his Dictionary. Two years subsequent, his tragedy of *Irene*, so often presented in vain, was brought forward by his friend Garrick; but the decision of the public was so far from being favourable that our

author resolved to decline all further attempts as a dramatic writer.

As a sort of recreation from the fatigue and labour of his Dictionary, he commenced his Rambler, on the 20th of March 1750, and continued to produce two essays weekly till the 17th of March 1752, when this admirable work was closed. About this time he lost his wife, whom he seems to have loved with the most ardent affection. In 1755 the Dictionary made its appearance, and was received with merited approbation, not only by the English, but by the foreign, literati. Previous to this time he had been honoured with a degree in arts.

Notwithstanding these great labours, and the reputation which he had acquired in the republic of letters, he was not yet able to emerge from the miseries of pecuniary want. The whole profits of his dictionary, and his subscriptions for the edition of Shakespeare, seem to have been expended before March 1756, when we find him arrested for a debt of five guineas, and liberated by the aid of the celebrated Richardson. The Idler was begun in April 1758, and finished in 1760. A few months prior to this time he wrote his Rasselas, with the pious view of defraying the expenses of his mother's funeral. In this manner did this great man continue to derive a scanty subsistence from occasional publications till the year 1762, when his Majesty, through the influence of lord Loughborough, granted him a pension of 300*l.* as the express reward of his literary exertions. In 1765 the University of Dublin conferred upon him the degree of Doctor of Laws, "*Ob egregiam Scriptorum elegantiam et Utilitatem,*" as the diploma expresses it. His edition of Shakespeare was published in the same year. From this time till 1771 he was chiefly engaged in writing political pamphlets, some of which gained him the highest celebrity as a politician.

In 1773 he made his tour to Scotland, an account of which he published upon his return under the title of a "Journey to the Hebrides." This work accidentally involved him in a

quabble with Macpherson, respecting the authenticity of Ossian's poems, in which he evidently had the advantage. His large great work, *The Lives of the English Poets*, was begun in 1777 and completed in the course of somewhat less than four years. About three years subsequent to the publication of this work he was attacked by the palsy which, together with the asthma and dropsy, continued gradually to undermine his constitution, till at last he sunk into the arms of death on the 13th of December 1784. He was buried in Westminster Abbey, at the foot of Shakespeare's monument, close to the grave of Garrick; but his monument, executed by Bacon, forms one of the chief ornaments of St. Paul's cathedral.*

Whittington lies about two miles to the south east of Lichfield. The Fradley heath, Oxford and Coventry canal runs past the village. A family of the name of Everard was long in possession of the manor, which is now the property of the earl of Uxbridge. The ancient mansion of the Everard's is still standing, as are likewise several other houses formerly belonging to families of considerable repute.

To the north east of this village is *Fisherwick*, the late seat of the earl of Donegal, from whom it was purchased in 1810 by Richard Howard, Esq. The house, a very extensive and noble building of stone, has since been demolished for the value of the materials. The surrounding pleasure grounds were laid out in the most exquisite taste; and exhibited such variety and richness of scenery, as to entitle it to rank among the finest mansions in the kingdom.

Elford village, situated on the north bank of the Tame, derived its present appellation from the number of eels with which the river formerly abounded in this neighbourhood. Previous to the Conquest, this manor belonged to earl Algar; but upon that event it was seized and retained, as his own property by the Norman monarch. During the reign of Henry the third, it was in the possession of William de Arderne, whose descendants continued to enjoy it till the marriage of Maud,

sole heiress of Sir John Arderne, with Thomas, second son of Sir John Stanley of Latham, carried it into that family. By a succession of females, it passed in like manner to the Stantons; from the Stantons to the Smiths; from the Smiths to the Huddlestons; and from the Huddlestons to the Bowes, in which last family it remained for several generations; when it devolved on the honourable Craven Howard, by marriage with Mary daughter of George Bowes, Esq. ancestor to the late earl of Suffolk, upon whose death it fell to his sister, the honorable Frances Howard.

The church dedicated to St. Peter is a fine old building in the pointed style of architecture. The windows contain some fine paintings on glass, but in a very damaged state. A few ancient monuments deserve attention. In the north wall appears a painted figure, with curled hair, habited in a gown which reaches to the knee, and having buskins on his legs, a sword, and a ring on his thumb. Near it is an alabaster tomb of an *Arderne* and his wife. The male figure wears a conic helmet, mail round his neck, chin, and shoulders, and a collar of S.S. The lady has on a rich pearl bonnet, a cloak and gown: one hand is clasped in that of her husband. The figure of *Sir William Smith* in full armour, with a collar S. S. and beardless, lies upon a raised tomb between figures of his two wives Isabel* and Anne, the former of whom wears a coronet on her head. *Sir John Stanley* is placed under an arch, in armour, his head resting on a helm. Beside him are an eagle and child, the cognizance of the Stanleys. Under another arch near this appears the recumbent figure of a child (the eldest son of Sir John Stanley) dressed in a long robe, and having curled hair. One hand points to his ear, and the other holds a ball, which appears, from the inscription upon it, to have been the immediate instrument of his death—"Ubi dolor ibi digitus."†

At

* Isabel was daughter of John Nevil, marquis of Montacute, brother to the great earl of Warwick; Anne was daughter to William Stanton, and conveyed to him this manor.

† Pennant's Journey, 160, 161.

At Elford park farm, which is situated about two miles from the village, is a barrow called Elford-low, and opposite to it, at the distance of a mile, another of smaller extent. Both of them are evidently sepulchral, and were probably the burying places of the slain, in some battle on or near this spot, during the Saxon heptarchy. These lows are denominated by the common people Robin Hood's shooting butts from a belief, prevalent among them, that he sometimes practised here, and was able to throw an arrow from the one to the other. Several human skeletons, a piece of a bayonet, a wooden bowl or noggin, and some other warlike utensils, were discovered in a field here about the middle of the last century. Concerning the bones it is impossible to offer even a plausible conjecture; but the remaining articles, in all probability, belonged to some soldiers at the time of the great rebellion in 1645.*

Clifton Campville, a village placed at the most eastern angle of the county, derived the latter part of its name from the Camvilles, a family who were in possession of the manor from 1200 to 1315. It is chiefly remarkable on account of its church, which is dedicated to St. Andrews, and is surmounted by one of the finest spires to be seen on any parish church in the kingdom. The interior has two chancels, which are separated by a handsome screen. Some of the windows contain several very neat paintings on glass, one of them a representation of St. Mark. The south chancel is distinguished by a very noble alabaster monument in honour of Sir John Vernon, and his lady, both of whom died in 1543. On the top are their effigies in a recumbent posture; the knight dressed in a long bonnet and gown, and his lady in a square hood, with a purse, knife, and beads, by her side.

Thorpe Constantine, situated about two miles to the south of Clifton, deserves notice, only on account of the diminutive size of its church, and as being the family residence of the late
William

* Shaw's Hist. Staff. Vol. I. p. 361.

William Inge, Esq. already mentioned as greatly distinguished for his public spirit and integrity as a justice of the peace.

TAMWORTH.

This town is finely situated at the confluence of the river Tame and the Anker. The former runs through the town, dividing it nearly into equal parts, one of which is in Warwickshire, and the other in the county we are now describing. In the Saxon language, the name of this place was *Tamanweorthe*, which signifies, the island of the river Tame. It was likewise called *Tamencordige*, and *Tamawordina*, both of them terms of similar import.

Tamworth seems to have been a town of considerable note, at a very early period. In the time of the Mercians it was a royal village, and the favourite residence of their monarchs. The celebrated Offa dates a charter to the monks of Worcester, from his palace here, in 781. Several of his successors in the next century date other charters from the same place.*

At this period a vast ditch 45 feet in breadth protected the town and royal demesne on the north, west, and east; the rivers serving as a defence on the south side. Of this ditch some few vestiges can still be traced, and at two angles which it forms are two mounts, probably raised as the foundations of small towers. Many bones of men and horses, and ancient warlike instruments, have been discovered here at different times during the last fifty or sixty years.

Upon the invasion of this kingdom by the Danes as mentioned in the general history, Tamworth† was totally destroyed. Ethelfleda, however, the celebrated daughter of the illustrious Alfred, rebuilt it in the year 913, after she had, by her prudence and valour, succeeded in freeing her brother's dominions

* Pennant, 164. Gough's Camden, Vol. II. 495—504.

† Vide Ante, p. 720—722.

minions from the grasp of the piratical invaders. This lady likewise erected a tower on a part of the artificial mount which forms the site of the present castle; and here she generally resided till the period of her death in 920. About two years posterior to this event, Tamworth witnessed the submission of all the Mercian tribes, together with the princes of Wales, to the sovereign power of her brother Edward.

Concerning the history of Tamworth from this period till the era of the Conquest, nothing of importance is recorded. St. Edith, or Editha, whom we have several times mentioned* before, is said to have founded a small monastery here; but the truth of this statement is extremely doubtful. After the accession of the Norman conqueror to the English throne, this town continued for some time a royal demesne, but was at last let at a certain rent to the lords of the castle. In the third year of the reign of queen Elizabeth it was constituted a corporation, and two years after first sent representatives to Parliament. The right of voting is vested in the inhabitants paying scot and lot, and the members are returned jointly by the sheriffs of Warwickshire and Staffordshire, from the circumstance already noticed of the town being situated partly in both these counties. Two bailiffs, a recorder, and twenty-four capital burgesses, form the corporation. One of the bailiffs is chosen from each county. They have the power of holding a three weeks' court of record, and acting as justices of the peace within the borough. They have likewise a court leet once a year, a gaol, and a common seal. The market is held on a Saturday every week, and is plentifully supplied with provisions of all kinds.

The town of Tamworth is large and well built, and its situation uncommonly fine. This latter circumstance, joined to the advantages it enjoyed as a place of defence in ancient times, was probably the cause of its being distinguished by the residence of the Mercian monarchs. It is on all sides surrounded by
rich

* She was the daughter of king Edgar and abbess of Polesworth nunnery.

* Vide Ante. p. 755.

rich and luxuriant meadows, through which the Tame and Anker glide along in the most picturesque manner. The two bridges, which are thrown across these rivers, add not a little to the general beauty of the scenery, which is viewed to the greatest advantage from the castle. This edifice was the seat of its lords till the commencement of the last century. The first of these was Robert Marmion, Lord of Fontenoy in Normandy, and a celebrated chieftain in the army of William the Conqueror: whose descendants enjoyed it till the year 1291, when it passed by marriage to William Mortain, and from him to the Frevile's. The same title in little more than a century carried it into the family of Ferrers, and from them also, at a later period, to the Comptons. The Marquis of Townshend is its present possessor in right of Lady Charlotte Compton, Baroness de Ferrers, only daughter of James Earl of Northampton. To a modern eye this castle, considered of itself, appears dull and heavy: but the elevation of its site throws around it an air of considerable grandeur. Exteriorly it is still kept in tolerable repair, though the interior is much injured. The apartments are for the most part extremely inconvenient and irregular. Indeed the dining room and drawing room are the only exceptions to this remark, each of which is ornamented with large projecting windows. Around the first are painted a great variety of coats of arms of the Ferrers family and its alliances; and in the other is a very splendid chimney-piece richly sculptured according to the old taste, and having beneath it the motto "*Only one.*"

In the hall there was formerly an old rude delineation upon the wall, of the last battle between Sir John Launcelot of the Lake, a knight of king Arthur's round table, and another knight named Sir Turquin. The figures were drawn of gigantic dimensions, and appeared tilting together in the manner described in the romance; resting their spears, and pushing their horses at full speed against each other.

The church, which is dedicated to St. Editha, is supposed to occupy the site of the nunnery, the existence of which we have

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already

already stated to be extremely doubtful. At what precise period it was founded cannot be ascertained; but Leland thinks it must have been the work of one of the Marmions, very shortly after the Norman Conquest. Some person of the same family, and probably the founder, constituted it a collegiate church, and placed here a dean and six prebendaries, each of whom had his substitute or vicar. This church is very spacious; and, from the various styles of building it exhibits, would seem to have undergone very material alterations and repairs at different periods. It is surmounted by a massive tower, the double staircase of which is much celebrated by Dr. Plot, the floor of the one being the roof of the other. Each staircase has an entrance and exit peculiar to itself. Near the chancel are two great round arches with zigzag mouldings, which shew the era of their erection to have been at least prior to the reign of Henry the third. St. Editha is said to have had an image here which was destroyed at the time of the dissolution. The seven incumbents, however, enjoyed pensions so late as the year 1553. In the reign of Queen Elizabeth, the college and all its prebendaries were granted to Edward Downing, and Peter Ashton. Several lay prebendaries still remain attached to this church, but there is no dean.—Indeed for many years the living was regarded only as a curacy; but, towards the close of the last century, a decision of the House of Lords declared it to be a vicarage. A number of antique and modern monuments adorn the different divisions of this church. The most distinguished are those in honour of the Freviles and Ferrers, upon which are placed their figures, and those of their wives. Among those of later date one particularly deserves to be noticed, on account of the elegance of its style and execution. It was erected towards the close of the seventeenth century, to the memory of John Ferrers, Esq. and his son Humphry, who died two years before his father at the age of twenty-five. This monument is of marble, and the figures as large as life, appears in a half-kneeling posture, and habited after the Roman costume.

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The *Hospital* in this town was founded and endowed by Mr. Guy the rich bookseller, to whom the borough of Southwark is indebted for the noble institution which still bears his name. It is situated on the same spot where formerly stood an hospital dedicated to St. James, and built by Philip Marmion, in the 15th year of the reign of Edward the first.*

The *Grammar School*, founded by Queen Elizabeth, is yet an excellent and flourishing institution.

Tamworth being a town of considerable size, carries on a variety of manufactures. The chief of these formerly was the manufacture of superfine narrow woollen cloths; but this trade, though still considerable, has much decreased. The printing of calicos, and the tanneries on the other hand, are branches of business which have greatly advanced. The ale breweries are now likewise great sources of wealth to the inhabitants. According to the parliamentary returns of 1801 the population of the Staffordshire portion of this town consisted of 1123 persons, of whom 642 are returned as employed in different trades and manufactures.

There are here several meeting houses for Dissenters.

Drayton Basset, a village situated about two miles south from Tamworth, was a place of some distinction in ancient times. The latter part of its name is derived from the illustrious family of the Bassets, who were for some time lords of the manor. It afterwards became the property of the Earls of Leicester and Essex, who frequently made the old mansion house their place of residence.

The church is a very handsome modern edifice, erected in imitation of the Gothic style of architecture. A variety of tombs and coats of arms of the Bassets ornament the interior.

Hints, lying to the west of Drayton, is a small village beautifully situated on the side of a considerable eminence, which commands an extensive and luxuriant prospect. From its

Saxon

* Gough's Camden, Vol. II. 504. Pennant's Journey, p. 171. Tanner's Notitia.

† For a further account of Tamworth, see our account of Worcestershire.

Saxon name *Headon*, signifying "Old Town," it would appear to occupy the site of some very ancient station.

Not far from the church is a very large tumulus, which is placed on the south side of the Roman road called the Watling Street. As it has not yet been opened the contents of it remain unknown; but it is supposed by Plot* to be of Roman construction. On the common here was found, in 1792, a large pig of lead, having the following inscription upon it in bas relief.

IMP. VESP. VII. T. V. COS.

The church, a modern structure, exhibits a very fine specimen of Grecian architecture on a small scale. Its situation is lofty, and highly picturesque. In the interior are several monuments to the memory of the Floyers and Lawleys, two families of some note in the neighbourhood. The former church, which was very ancient, contained in the chancel a noble raised tomb in honour of one of the Bassets.

At *Canwell*, a hamlet situated at the south corner of this parish, but deemed extra-parochial, there was formerly a priory of Benedictine monks, founded in 1142 by Geva Ridell, daughter of Hugh Earl of Chester, and dedicated to St. Mary, St. Giles, and All Saints. It was one of the monasteries seized by Wolsey. The building, as Plot informs us, was a very curious old fabric of Gothic origin. It was destroyed somewhat more than half a century ago, by a tenant of the farm on which it stands, who is said to have got as much lead from the coffins he found in it, as paid the expenses of his alterations. Stables belonging to the superb mansion house of the Lawley's now occupy its site.

Weeford, adjoining to Hints on the north-west, is a low lying village and parish, situated on the south side of the Watling street, and distinguished as containing the large barrow which gives name to the hundred. Concerning the origin of this monument of antiquity, different opinions prevail among historians and antiquaries. Some regard it as the sepulchre of the celebrated

* Plot. Stafford. p. 402.

brated Offa; but for this idea there seems to be no other evidence than the supposed etymology of its name. Dr. Plot, however, says it is most probably Saxon, and though not the burying place of the Mercian monarch,* certainly contains the bones of some mighty chieftain, who had perhaps fallen in some engagement near this place. Weeford has been the scene of much civil strife. A Purefoy was here slain by Sir Henry Willoughby during the contentions of the houses of York and Lancaster; and Sir Henry himself was shortly after desperately wounded almost on the same spot, in a rencounter with Lord L'Isle.

The church is a small ancient building no ways remarkable. The living is a prebend in Litchfield cathedral. Not far from it stands the mansion house of the Swinsens, a very noble edifice erected by Mr. Wyatt, father to the present celebrated architect, and said to have first brought him and his family into professional repute.

Shenston, which lies to the south-west of Weeford, is a very neat pleasant village, situated on a gentle eminence, and surrounded on all sides by an expansive vale. Almost every house has a small garden in front. The church, dedicated to St. John, stands nearly in the centre of the town. It is a very ancient structure in the form of a cross, but much altered from its original condition by successive repairs. The body is supported by a variety of strong pillars. This church consists of a north aisle and three chancels only, one of which is more modern than the other, and neatly fitted up in the Venetian taste, is now used for divine service.

In this parish is situated the splendid mansion house of *Little Aston*. An extensive lawn stretches itself around, finely shaded with trees, and embellished by a noble lake. Over the latter is thrown a very handsome bridge, and opposite to it stands an elegant stone conservatory, which adds considerably to the general beauty of the scenery. Immediately adjoining the hamlet of Overstonall on a small hill, appears an ancient
fortification

* Offa was buried at Bedford, Mat. Paris. Math. West. p. 991.

fortification which is called *Castle-old-ford*, or *Castle Old Fort*. It is encompassed with a double ditch, and is 160 paces diameter between the entrances, which seem to have fronted south-east and north-west. By whom this fortification was originally erected remains extremely doubtful; for though it resembles British works of the same kind, several spearheads of iron have been found in it, which tend to the supposition that it is of later date. A barbed arrow head of flint has likewise been discovered here.*

The village of *Wall* lies about two miles to the south of Lichfield. This village, and Chesterfield, situated a quarter of a mile still more to the south, are now generally allowed to occupy the site of the Roman station *Etocetum*. Salmon, indeed, is the only author who adopts a different opinion, placing it at *Barr Beacon*, in the parish of Aldridge. Many vestiges of this ancient city can yet be discovered. Coins of Otho, Nero, and Domitian, are frequently dug up. Dr. Plott† tells us, he saw two Roman pavements of lime and rubble, and of pebble and gravel, both laid on Roman bricks, also the pedestal of a pillar and other antiquities of the same kind. In a field called the Butts, says Stakeley,‡ “I saw great ruins of walls equidistant twelve feet, and twelve high like square cellars. I saw there bits of pavement, Irish slate, and Roman bricks. The walls are a yard thick of strong mortar, rubble, stone, &c.” These remains can still be distinctly perceived by the attentive eye of the antiquary. Some ruins in Butts close are generally pointed out as the foundation of a Roman temple; a little below which the author last mentioned affirms he discovered the crown of a subterranean arch. Between the Watling Street which passes here in a direction almost due east and west, and another road leading to Lichfield, appear the vestiges of the castle. The ground upon which it stood is the highest in this neighbourhood, having

VOL. XIII.

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* Plot. Stafford, 396. Gough's Camden, Vol. II. 506. Shaw's History, Vol. I. p. 12. Vol. II. p. 53.

† Plot. Staff. p. 401.

‡ Stakeley. It. Vol. II. p. 21.

not improbably been somewhat raised by the vast pile of ruins which lie beneath its surface. The walls of this castle were founded on the solid rock. South from it runs the Rigning way, called by the inhabitants *Hickling Street*. By the side of a road running northward from hence to Pipe Hill, are some very considerable remains of the walls which inclosed the town, and from the existence of which in later times the village derived its name. There is a gate mentioned by Stukely as crossing the Watling-street at the castle end; but no vestiges of it can now be traced. The same learned antiquary likewise notices a Roman wall, which was shewn to him in a cellar then belonging to "William Milner, at the Swan." On the south side of Watling-street in the fields, called *Chesterfield Crofts*, a great variety of flower-pots and other curious antiquities have been frequently discovered. This spot was well adapted for a Roman station being situated nearly in the centre of England, and having open communication by excellent roads to its most distant boundaries.

Between this village and Pipehill, which lies about three quarters of a mile to the north, there was lately discovered an extensive Roman military barricade, justly to be regarded as one of the most interesting remains of the labours of that wonderful people, which for many years has been laid open to us in this island by antiquarian research. It was composed of entire trunks of oak trees standing on end close to each other. The timber above ground has long been completely decayed. Those which Mr. Shaw examined, he tells us, were perfectly black at the bottom, but bore evident marks of the operation of the axe. This barricade was divided into a number of distinct pieces, each about 12 feet long, and ten or twelve inches diameter. Every piece contained a cavity three feet down its middle for the purpose of observation, or with a view to the discharge of missile weapons. The extent throughout which this work has been traced is somewhere about 500 yards, in an angular line, strengthened by flanking bastions, at which points the pieces
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most entire have been generally placed. A wooden mallet, found when digging here, was unfortunately afterwards destroyed by fire.

Norton under Cannock lies at a considerable distance to the west of the wall near the boundary between this hundred and that of Cuddleston. It derived its peculiar appellation "Under Cannock" from its proximity to the ancient town of that name. The Watling-street passes about half a mile to the south of this village. At the time of the Conquest, the manor belonged to the bishop of Chester. Henry the third bestowed it upon Robert de Aston, whose descendants enjoyed it for some time, when it was distributed among a variety of families of inferior note. The church is a neat Gothic edifice surmounted by a small tower. An ancient font, which appears coeval with the tower, being formed out of and constituting part of its base, is placed at the entrance to the helfry. In this font are three bells. None of the monuments require to be particularly noticed.

The manor house of Little Wirley, a hamlet in this parish, affords a curious example of the architectural style of an ancient family residence. Its situation and embellishments are in perfect harmony with the picturesque appearance of the building itself. In the hall appears several pieces of antique armour, and some old-fashioned wooden chevrons, on which are depicted the arms of Fouke.

Aldridge, is an extensive village, situated near the northern extremity of Sutton Colfield, at the distance of a mile and a half from the confines of Warwickshire. The church, a stone structure with a tower at one end, is dedicated to St. Mary. The interior consists of a chancel and a north and south aisle, the former being separated from the body by four arches in the pointed style of architecture. On the south side of the church is an arch probably designed for the reception of the founder's monument. Here is likewise the tomb of Robert Stapleton, whose effigy bears a shield ornamented with the figure of a dog. His sword hangs across the body in front. The living is a rec-

tory. Till lately it was customary for the incumbent to give a dinner every Christmas day to each individual, young and old, resident in the parish. The origin of this curious practice is now wholly unknown. Within these few years it has been discontinued, the clergyman paying 6*d.* to every householder to regale his family at home.

The agreeable village of Great Barr lies within the limits of this parish, being placed on the declivity of the lofty *Barr-beacon*, which stretches itself out to a great extent, and seems like a vast barrier to the country beyond it. The derivation of the name of this place is somewhat uncertain, being regarded by a few as coming from the word *Bara*, which signifies a wild uncultivated field, and by others from the term *Barah*, to eat sacrifice or purify.*

The family of the Scots have long been in possession of this manor. Their family seat here is one of the finest and most delightful mansions in this part of the country. It stands in a beautiful vale, surrounded by a noble lawn, and ornamented with trees in great variety and abundance. A charming sheet of water winds along in front. The hills behind, covered with foliage, are every where intersected by numerous walks sheltered from the scorching sunbeams by the umbrageous shade above. At different points as you ascend the hill are placed rustic seats, each commanding enchanting but dissimilar views of the scenery below. One of them exhibits a truly Shennstonian prospect, the eye being directed down through the wild copse upon the lake in the vale, whose extremity is concealed behind the richest scenes of aged oaks and verdant hills. Descending from these in a different direction towards the house, you first pass the kitchen garden, and shortly after enter the flower garden, which is laid out with the most refined taste. At a little distance from the latter garden stands a beautiful urn, to the memory of Miss Mary Dolman, cousin to the celebrated

* Shaw's Hist. Stafford. Vol. II. p. 102. Stukeley's Itin.

brated Shenstone. The following elegant epitaph from the pen of the poet is engraved on the pedestal :

" Ah Maria" puellarum elegantissima,
 Ah Flore, venustate abrepta : Vale,
 " Huc quanto minus est
 Cum reliquis versari quam tui meminisse.

This urn, is composed of statuary marble, and fluted with a medallion of Miss Dolman in the centre, and bears above the Shenstonian epitaph, the following words :

" Consobrinæ suæ Mariæ Dolman"
 " Hanc Urnam"
 " posuerunt,"
 " I. & M."
 " S."

Leaving the urn, a gradually rising walk now presents itself, and leads to more elevated ground, commanding an extensive prospect of the surrounding country. Approaching the house, we behold a very noble cascade, pouring its noisy waters into the large and richly wooded lake which adorns the valley. Crossing the head of this lake, and proceeding along the range of hills which stretch themselves from hence, we reach Highwood and Barrbeacon. The latter of these summits claims particular attention. In the time of the Druids, we have already mentioned it to have been the point from which these priests gave notice to the people of their quarterly sacrifices. It afterwards, in the time of the Saxons, became a beacon to alarm the country during the invasions of the Danes, who likewise probably used it for a similar purpose themselves.*

The chapel of Great Barr, founded by Mrs. Bromwich, is remarkable for the beauty and elegance of its architecture. At one end it is adorned by a very handsome spire, and the interior is fitted up in the most refined modern taste. On the east win-

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* Shaw's Hist. Stafford, Vol. I. 105.

dow is exhibited a painting on glass, not inferior in style and execution to many of the most approved productions of this art in more remote times. It is the work of Mr. Eginton, who has not only happily borrowed from the Rev. William Peter's *Spirit of a Child*, but has actually succeeded in improving the original design, chiefly by his having introduced some highly finished clouds, which finely relieve the splendid effect of the supernatural light. The graceful and highly flowing hair, together with the delicately beautiful and interesting faces of the two figures, are exquisitely delineated and softened by a gradation of tints, and a simplicity of colouring, of which the ancient painters were wholly ignorant.

In this neighbourhood is situated the extensive waste of Sutton Colfield, which hill lately was only valuable as a sheep-walk or rabbit warren. The portion of it comprehended in Staffordshire is calculated to contain about 6,500 acres. A small division of this common is now inclosed, and in a state of cultivation. The remainder is much occupied during summer as a place of encampment for troops, and of course still continues in the same unimproved condition as formerly. For a further account of this extensive waste, the reader is referred to the description of Warwickshire, in which county a very considerable part of it is situated.

Adjoining to Aldridge, on the south west, lies the village and parish of *Rushall*. The manor has in later times been possessed by the family of Leigh, one of whom is distinguished as the author of *Critica Sacra*. The ancient mansionhouse is now in ruins. It was formerly "built about with a wall and a gatehouse of stone all embattled castlewise."* During the contentions of the houses of York and Lancaster, and likewise in the era of the civil war between the Parliament and the family of Stuart, this seat was strongly fortified and defended by a numerous garrison. At present, its ruins display in external appearance a very curious specimen of the ancient embattled mansions,

* Leland's Itin.

mansions, which our ancestors were obliged to build for their defence at a time when the science of government was little understood, and the laws were inadequate for their security and protection. The whole area of this fortified residence comprises about the extent of an acre. The walls, which are composed of rough limestone, are very strong, and, according to Erdeswick, were surrounded by a deep moat, no vestiges of which can now be discovered. Mr. Shaw informs us, that he saw several marks of fire places in different parts of these walls, but he justly supposes that the principal apartments must have been placed near the centre of the area, where still stands a detached edifice, sometimes occupied as an occasional residence by the proprietor of the manor.

The church of Rushall, dedicated to St. Michael, appears to have been formerly only a chapel of ease to Walsall. On the south side of the chancel, there still remains the aperture of a confessionary, and a vase for holy water. Otherways this edifice presents nothing worthy of remark, being no more than a mutilated remnant of an old building in the pointed style of architecture, with a plain tower rising at one end. In the cemetery stands a curious old cross; and the whole being finely shaded with foliage renders it rather an agreeable and picturesque object.

This parish produces vast quantities of limestone greatly celebrated for its superior quality, taking a polish almost equal to marble. Ironstone of different kinds is likewise a famed production of this neighbourhood. Both these valuable materials are readily conveyed to various districts of the country by means of the Wirley and Essington canal, which passes here, and is connected with a multiplicity of others.

WALSALL.

This ancient market town and borough is situated immediately to the south of Rushall. It stands on a pleasant eminence,

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* Erdeswick's Survey, p. 147. Shaw's Hist. Staff. Vol. II. p. 66.

at the distance of nine miles from the city of Lichfield. This town is a place of great antiquity, and is regarded as the second market town in the county. Being a town corporate, the government is vested in a mayor, a recorder, twenty-four aldermen or capital burgesses, a town clerk, two serjeants at mace, and a beadle. A court of quarter sessions is regularly held at stated periods, in which the Mayor and Mayor elect preside as justices of the peace for the borough, and the foreign of Bloxwich, and award judgement in cases of petit larceny, and offences of a similar nature. Though a corporation, however, this town does not send any representatives to Parliament.

Walsall, previous to the commencement of the present war, was a very thriving and flourishing town, consisting principally of twelve large and regular streets. Of late years, however, its industry, in common with that of the different towns engaged in the same species of trade, has suffered considerable depression; but we trust it is soon destined again to revive. The manufacture chiefly carried on here is the making of buckles, chapes, snaffles, bridle bits, spurs, stirrups, and in general all sorts of hardware articles employed in saddlery.

According to the parliamentary returns of 1801 the number of inhabitants in the borough and foreign amounted to 5274 males and 5125 females; in all 10,399 persons. Of these 5415 were returned as employed in various departments of trade. The market, which is held on Tuesday every week, is well supplied with all kinds of provisions. A very remarkable practice, mentioned by Dr. Plot,* is said still to prevail here. On the eve of Epiphany, a dole of one penny is regularly distributed to every person residing either in the borough, or in the villages belonging to it, without regard to whether they are fixed residents or not. This gift was bestowed, as is generally believed, by an inhabitant of the name of Moseley, who happening to hear a child cry for bread on this day, was so affected, that he vowed such an occurrence should never take place again;

* Plot's Staffordshire, p. 314.

again; and as a mean of preventing it, immediately made over his manor of Bascot to the corporation, with the view of maintaining the dole. Some affirm, however, that it originated in an endowment, which he bestowed on this church and the abbey of Hales Owen, in order to have prayers said for his own soul and that of his wife; and that after the dissolution of religious houses, this endowment, or at least a part of it, was converted to the maintenance of this yearly benevolence.

The manor, which is of large extent, was the property of the great earl of Warwick, surnamed "Make king," during the reign of the unfortunate Henry the sixth. It was afterwards in the possession of the celebrated duke of Northumberland, who lost his head in the attempt to establish his daughter-in-law, the lady Jane Grey, on the throne of England, from which she was eventually driven by the cruel and bigotted Mary.

The church dedicated to St. Matthew, or All Saints, formerly belonged to the abbey of Hales Owen, having been conferred on that monastic establishment by Sir William Rufus at a very early period. It is an edifice of great antiquity, in the form of a cross, but does not exhibit any traces of Saxon architecture. At the south west angle rises a strong, plain, and rather elegant tower, surmounted by a handsome spire. The interior is lofty and spacious, and presents a somewhat singular appearance. Each side of the chancel has seven stalls in a very entire state, the seats of which are ornamented with a great variety of grotesque figures carved in *baso-relievo*. Under this part of the church is a remarkable arch-way of massy Gothic workmanship, forming a common passage, through the eastern division of the church yard. In the windows were formerly some neat paintings on glass; but they are now almost completely effaced. The window of St. Catharine's chapel, however, still exhibits the mutilated figure of that saint; and St. Clement's chapel has several niches in its walls, which were no doubt intended for statues, though none now occupy them.

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Besides the church, there are in this town several places of public worship, appropriated to Dissenters of different denominations. Here is an excellent free grammar school founded either by Queen Elizabeth, or her successor. At Bloxwich, a hamlet in this parish celebrated for its sadlery work, is a small chapel of ease.

Bescot Hall occupies the site of the ancient baronial mansion of the Hillarys, and Mountforts. This seat and the surrounding inclosures are finely decked with luxuriant foliage; and, from their general elevation above the level of the adjoining country, display a very extensive and interesting view. It is inclosed by a moat filled with water, which is crossed by a very picturesque bridge. The iron gates, formerly standing close to the house, are now placed at a considerable distance from it, by which means the approach has been greatly improved.

Handsworth is an agreeable village situated at the south-east extremity of this hundred, at the distance of about two miles from the town of Birmingham in Warwickshire. The parish is of considerable extent; and the most distinguishing object it contains is Hamstead house, a noble old building, lying immediately opposite to Perry Hall. The grounds winding along the banks of the Tame are pleasing and romantic, being covered with a profusion of stately trees. A lime placed on a rocky eminence is particularly remarkable for its uncommon size. At three feet from the surface of the ground it measures twenty three feet girt. Its height is seventy feet, and the shade which it throws extends one hundred and eighty.

The church dedicated to St. Mary, is an ancient Gothic structure of brown stone, surmounted by a tower which rises near the centre. It contains a few neat monuments, and has a variety of coats of arms painted on the windows. The living is a rectory in the deanery of Tamworth.

In this neighbourhood stands *Soho*, justly esteemed the first manufactory of its kind in Europe, whether we regard the value

value of its productions, or the extent and grandeur of the buildings in which it is carried on. These are situated at the foot of a considerable eminence, on a piece of ground, (formerly a marsh, but now converted into fertile soil,) and consist of four squares with connecting ranges or rather streets of warehouses, sufficiently extensive for the accommodation of a thousand workmen. To the south are situated a number of agreeable gardens which give an air of uncommon cheerfulness to this splendid seat of art and industry, and affords ample proof of the taste and skill of the original projector.

At the commencement of this great manufactory, its productions were only such as were usually made by the artists in this part of the country, viz. buttons, buckles, watch-chains, trinkets, and articles of a similar description. In a short time, however, the manufacture of plated wares on an large scale was likewise introduced; and, at last when these substantial and useful branches had been fully established, the proprietors began to bring forward works of elegance and grandeur, in stone bronze and Or Moulin. These consisted of all kinds of vases, candelabra, clock-cases, watch-stands, ice-pails, and many other particulars equally valuable. No sooner was this novel manufacture fairly begun than it received the sanction and encouragement of his Majesty and of the principal nobility, while on the other hand no exertion or ingenuity was wanting to render it worthy of such distinguished patronage. Thus supported, the proprietors were soon enabled to bring their productions to the highest state of perfection, so that not only was the importation of such articles from France materially reduced, but a new and valuable branch of commerce was thereby created to many of the most polite cities in Europe. Some foreign sovereigns were even pleased to confer upon them distinguished marks of their approbation and munificence.

The brilliant success of this last species of manufacture more lately induced the proprietors to embark in another of no less novelty, and of much greater importance. This was the manufacturing

facturing wrought plate, to facilitate which they, after a considerable struggle, succeeded in obtaining the establishment of an office of assay in Birmingham, for regulating the purity of the metal. Since the completion of this object, wrought plate has been a prominent article among the many rich productions of this great establishment, to the extension of which beyond all probable limits the improvements in the construction of the steam engine have contributed in a very considerable degree.

The house of Soho, which is placed at a short distance from the manufactory, is an elegant mansion surrounded by beautiful pleasure grounds. In one of the more advanced groves stands an urn to the memory of Dr. W. Small, whose name has been perpetuated by the muse of Darwin.

The residence of Mr. Francis Egginton, whom we have so often had occasion to eulogize for the elegant style and execution of his paintings on glass, is likewise situated in this parish.

West Bromwich lies to the west of Handsworth, and is chiefly remarkable as containing *Sandwell park*, the seat of earl Dartmouth. This mansion is situated in a romantic valley, and is built on the site of a priory of Benedictine monks, dedicated to St Mary Magdalen.* Some portion of the original foundation is still visible to the antiquarian eye, behind the house and among the offices, where a stone coffin was dug up a few years ago. The present edifice is constructed of brick stuccoed white, and forms a square, the corners of which rise considerably higher than the rest of the building. The interior contains many valuable paintings, and in front extends a charming lawn laid out with the highest degree of taste and judgement.

The church, an ancient building surmounted by a tower, has of late years been repaired, and much enlarged interiorly, the side aisles being thrown into the body, so as to present one entire space. Neither its architectural features, nor its monuments, claim the smallest attention.

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* Tan. Not.

This village is remarkable as the birth place of Walter Parson, porter to king James the first, who appears to have been no less distinguished for his extraordinary strength, than for the equanimity of his temper. His stature was somewhat above the common size, but not in any extraordinary degree; yet such was the force of his arm, that he could, without material exertion, take up two of the tallest yeomen of the guard, and carry them where he pleased in spite of their most rigorous attempts to free themselves from his iron grasp.

Wednesbury, which adjoins to Bromwich, on the north-west, and stands at a short distance from the source of the river Tame, is a considerable market town of great antiquity. In the time of the Mercians this place was distinguished by a noble castle fortified by Adelfleda, who was for some time governess of this extensive kingdom. No part of this work of antiquity now remains, except a few traces of its foundation. After the Conquest, it became a portion of the royal demesnes. Henry the second, however, bestowed it on the family of the Heronvilles in exchange for the town of Cobsfield, in Yorkshire, so that it is now a parcel of the honour of Woodstock. From them it passed after various successions into the family of the Beaumonts.

This town is distinguished for its numerous and valuable manufactures, the principal of which are guns, coach harness, iron axle trees, saws, trowels, edge-tools, bridle-bits, stirrups, nails, hinges, woodscrews, and cast iron works of every description. Enamel paintings in the finest style of execution are likewise among its more prominent productions. For their proficiency in these different branches the inhabitants are principally indebted to the abundance and excellence of the coal wrought in their immediate neighbourhood. This coal is beyond all doubt the best in the kingdom for the smith's forge, on account of the intense heat which it produces. It extends in separate veins from three to fourteen feet in thickness, and affords to its various proprietors an almost princely revenue.

Here is also found that peculiar species of iron ore denominated blond metal, used chiefly in the manufacture of nails, horse-shoes, hammers, axes, and other heavy tools of a similar description. Some spots, likewise, abound with a sort of reddish earth employed in painting, or glazing vessels of different kinds. This earth is known by the appellation of Hip.

The church is an elegant building in the pointed style of architecture, and adorns the summit of the hill, on which the castle already mentioned was situated. At one end rises a handsome tower, supporting a lofty spire of unusual beauty. The interior is divided into a chancel, nave, and north and south aisles. These last are separated from the nave by a range of very neat arches, which rest upon octagonal pillars. One arch being intersected by another pillar, produces a singular and awkward effect. In the chancel are several prebendal stalls, ornamented with most exquisite carved work. Here are a variety of monuments in honour of the ancestors of the families of lord Dudley and lord Harcourt. Against the north wall appears a very ancient tomb on which are placed two female figures standing under Gothic niches, each having her right hand resting on a plain shield. On the floor are cut out the figures of a knight and his lady, the one habited in full armour, and the other in the dress of the times. Several more are visible on the stones, but are so much obliterated as to be incapable of description. Within the rails is an alabaster monument to the memory of Mr. Parkes, whose effigy, and that of his wife, lie recumbent on the top. A monument adjoining the south wall represents a man and woman kneeling, having beneath them the figures of six children. Around the church yard is a large graff in which the vestiges of the ancient fort may be distinctly traced. The prospect from hence is among the most extensive in the county.

The market day here is on Wednesday when supplies of all kinds of provision are plentiful. According to the parliamentary returns of 1801 the number of inhabitants here was found to be

4160 persons, viz. 2071 males and 2089 females, of whom 1393 were returned as employed in different branches of trade, and 243 in agriculture. One of the collateral branches of the Birmingham canal, entering this parish, affords to the inhabitants the most perfect facility of commercial communication. A furious riot against the Methodists took place here in 1743; the windows of their houses were broken to atoms, and even their personal safety became much endangered by the violence of the Anti-methodistic enthusiasts.

Darlaston lies immediately to the south of *Wednesbury*. The church, which is a brick edifice of an oblong shape, was erected by Thomas Pye, a celebrated author of the sixteenth century. There are here two meeting houses for Dissenters, one appropriated to the Methodists, who are numerous, and the other to a small body of Independents.

Bentley Hall, an ancient manor properly belonging to *Wolverhampton*, though situated in this hundred on the immediate confines of *Darlaston*, is remarkable as having been the property of Col. Lane, who, together with his sister, so much distinguished themselves in concealing, and effecting the escape of, king Charles the second after his defeat at the decisive battle of Worcester.*

Wednesfield lying about two miles north-east from *Wolverhampton*, on the western boundary of the hundred, is remarkable

* The history of this Monarch's escape is too well known to require to be detailed in a work of this kind. That he should have resided so long in this county, known to a great number of individuals, and that not one of them should have proved false to the trust reposed in them, notwithstanding the high rewards offered for his apprehension, is a circumstance that reflects the highest honour on its inhabitants at large. To them is due the glory of setting the example to their more northern countrymen of the faithful and noble character which they evinced, in preserving the unfortunate prince Charles, after the dispersion of his army at Culloden. Miss Lanes was equally bold and judicious as the celebrated Flora Macdonald; and it is somewhat remarkable, that the plan of escape was in both instances nearly similar.

Shaw's Hist. Staff. Vol. I. 75. Vol. II. 95.

able as the scene of an engagement between Edward the elder and the Danes in which the latter were overthrown with immense slaughter. This battle is generally said to have taken place in 911; but upon this point there is considerable variation among historians.*

The number and extent of the lows or tumuli, to be seen here, are decisive monuments of this important victory. Willeshall, a village adjoining and situated within this hundred, though attached to the parish of Wolverhampton, deserves attention as the birth place of Dr. Wilkes,† to whose researches and collections the historian of the county is particularly indebted for much valuable information and critical disquisition.

DUDLEY CASTLE.

This noble work of antiquity is situated on the summit of a limestone hill at the distance of three miles to the south of Wednesbury. It is said to have been founded by Dodo, or Dudo, a distinguished Saxon chief about the year 760, from whom it likewise derived its name. After the Norman conquest it appears to have been bestowed upon William Fitz-Auscuph, who possessed no fewer than 25 manors in this county. During the contentions for the crown between king Stephen and the empress Maud this castle was fortified and maintained on the part of the latter by Gervase Pagnel, whose son having joined in rebellion against Henry the second, it was dismantled by the orders of that Monarch. This second Pagnel, dying without issue male, this Honour past by marriage to John de Somery. In the seventeenth

* Vide ante, p. 721.

† Dr. Wilkes was a member of Trinity College, Oxford, and rector of Pitchford, in Shropshire. He collected materials for a history of that county, and is spoken of by Browne Willics, (Mit. Abb. Vol. II. p. 189) but to the antiquities of his native county, his attention was chiefly directed.

Note by Boswell in his Life of Johnson, Vol. I. p. 123.

tenth year of Henry the third it was seized for the king's use on account of Roger de Somery neglecting or refusing to appear in order to have the honour of knighthood conferred upon him.* It was, however, soon after returned, and we find that about thirty years subsequent to this, the same Somery obtained a license to fortify it again. Issue male also failing in his family, it became the property of John Sutton who married Margaret, one of the heirs general in the reign of Edward the second. The Suttons were a respectable family in Nottinghamshire; and in consequence of their owning this castle one of them was called to the peerage by the title of lord Dudley. In the reign of Henry the eighth it was purchased by John Dudley duke of Northumberland, who lost it by rebellion in the reign of queen Mary. This nobleman is said to have made great repairs and additions to the buildings. After his death the queen bestowed it on Sir Edward Sutton son and heir of the lord Dudley, who had sold it to the duke. Anne, great granddaughter of this gentleman, carried it by marriage to Humble Ward, who was created baron Ward of Birmingham in Warwickshire on the third of March, 1643. During the civil wars which now began to distract England, this castle was twice besieged; first in 1644, when after holding out for three weeks, it was relieved by a corps of the king's forces, from Worcester; and again in 1646, at which time it was surrendered to Sir William Brereton, commander of the Parliamentary troops by Col. Levison, governor for the king. Some affirm that this noble family still continued to reside here for a considerable period after the Restoration; but at length they deemed it expedient to abandon it, probably on account of the ruinous condition to which it had been reduced by the siege. Tradition says it has since served as a retreat to a set of coiners who, having set fire to the buildings, were thereby discovered, and compelled to seek some other refuge, in which to carry on their iniquitous profession. The title of viscount Dudley was renewed in

1763, in the person of lord Ward, by the title of viscount Dudley, and ward of Dudley.

From the lofty site of this castle the view from its ruins is noble and extensive, comprehending five counties of England and a great part of Wales. The sides of the hill on which it stands displays a beautiful and varied covering of trees. The mansion itself consists of a number of buildings surrounding a court, and encompassed by an exterior wall flanked with towers. Of these buildings the keep appears evidently to be the most ancient part. Next to it, in point of age, is the chapel in which there are two very noble Gothic windows. The great gateway, with the apartment over it, may have been erected about the same time. This entrance is very strong; and under the chapel is a vault called the prison, though most probably built for a cellar. None of the other buildings seem to be older than the time of Henry the eighth. In the kitchen, which is situated on the eastern division, are two chimney pieces of monstrous size, the fire places in one of them measuring no less than four yards and a half in width. In the great hall, there was formerly an oak table one yard in breadth, and twenty five in length, which now forms the table in the hall of a neighbouring gentleman; but part of it has been cut off since its removal. The greater portion of the castle is a complete ruin, but some portion of it has been repaired within these few years.

SEISDON HUNDRED.

King's Swinford lies to the south-west of Dudley, near the boundary between this county and Worcestershire. It derived the regal part of its name from having been in the possession of the Conqueror at the time of the great Survey.

The church here is an ancient fabric surmounted by a massive tower, and possessing no claims to admiration for the beauty

beauty of its architecture. Over the south door, however, which is the principal entrance, there appear some remains of sculpture executed in a rude style. The monuments are numerous; but of these we shall only particularize one, not on account of its elegance, or the grandeur of the person who reposes beneath, but because it commemorates virtues of an humble stamp which unfortunately seldom meet with those marks of respect, which are so justly their due. This monument is nothing more than a plain stone, erected by Joseph Scott, Esq. and his wife in memory of Elizabeth Harrison, who had been thirty years in their service, and had all along conducted herself with such integrity, and evident anxiety for her master's interest, as drew from him the following poetical effusion, which forms her epitaph :

“ While flattering praises from oblivion save
 The rich, and splendour decorates the grave,
 Let this plain stone, O Harrison, proclaim
 Thy humble fortune and thy honest fame.
 In work unwearied, labour knew no end,
 In all things faithful, every where a friend ;
 Herself forgot, she toiled with generous zeal,
 And knew no interest but her master's weal,
 Midst the rude storms that shook his ev'ning day,
 No wealth could bribe her, and no power dismay.
 Her patron's love she dwelt on e'en in death,
 And dying blest them with her latest breath.

She departed this life June 19,
 1797. Aged 50 years.

Farewell thou best of servants, may the tear
 That sorrow trickled o'er thy parting bier,
 Prove to thy happy shade our fond regard,
 And all thy virtues find their full reward.”

H h h 2

In

• We cannot help thinking that much practical good might result from a judicious erection of monuments like the present. Servants are far from being devoid of solicitude for distinction; and such a tribute to the memory
 of

In the middle of this village, stands the ancient manor house of Bradley Hall, a very curious half timbered mansion, which was for some time used as a Catholic chapel.

Prestwood is a fine modern seat, placed on the site of one more ancient, built by Sir John Littleton, of which the gateway still remains, forming a very picturesque appendage to the present residence. The surrounding pleasure grounds exhibit a most delightful variety of hill and dale, wood and water, effected chiefly by the hand of nature. The Roman road passes in this vicinity, which abounds with extensive mines of coal, lying upon a stratum of clay, esteemed the best in England for making glass-house pots, from the great intensity of heat it is able to endure. This circumstance has already attracted hither several capitalists, in the glass trade, whose elegant villas tend greatly to the improvement and beauty of the neighbouring country. On Brierly hill, immediately adjoining, stands a small chapel built by subscription, on account of the distance from hence to the mother church. The first clergyman here was the Rev. Thomas Moss, author of the elegant little poem, called the "The Beggar."*

On Ashwood heath, in this parish, appear the remains of a Roman encampment, or fortification. It is of considerable extent, but surrounded by a single ditch, which shews it to have been only a temporary post. This camp is usually denominated by the people Wolverhampton church yard, from a tradition; current among them, that the cemetery of that parish was actually translated to this spot many years ago. The tumuli or barrows on Barrow-hill, which now seem to be entirely formed of solid rock, are supposed by Dr. Plot, to have been brought into that condition by the action of subterranean heat.

At

of one, who has attained the praise it conveys, can never be viewed by a fellow servant, without impressing him or her with a strong anxiety to deserve a similar eulogium.

* Shaw's Hist. Staff. Vol. II. 237, 238.

At *Rowley Regis* which is situated on a lofty peninsulated tract, which stretches into Worcestershire, between the parishes of Bradley and Dudley, there was found, some years ago, a pot of a globular form, which contained 1200 Roman silver coins, of 140 different sorts. Some of them bore fine impressions of the Roman emperors, Galba and Otho. The church here is particularly remarkable for the deformity and barbarous taste of its construction.

Cleat, a village situated in a detached portion of this hundred, surrounded by Worcestershire, and a part of Shropshire, claims notice as being the place near which Cenelm, king of Mercia, was murdered by the orders of his elder sister Quendrida, about the year 890. The unnatural conduct of this princess is finely described by Shenstone, in the following lines :*

" Born near the seat for Kenelm's fate renowned,
I take my plaintive reed, and range the grove,
And raise my lay, and bid the rocks resound
The savage force of empire and of love.

First by the centre of our various wild,
Where spreading oaks embower a Gothic fane,
Kenrida's arts a brother's youth beguiled,
There nature urged her tenderest pleas in vain,
Soft o'er his birth, and o'er his infant hours,
Th' ambitious maid could every care employ,
Then with assiduous fondness cropp'd the flowers,
To deck the cradle of the princely boy.

But soon the bosom's pleasing calm is flown,
Love fires the breast, the sultry passions rise ;
A favour'd lover seeks the Mercian throne,
And views her Kenelm with a rival's eyes.

See garnished for the chace, the fraudulent maid,
To these lone hills direct her devious way,
The youth all prone, the sister's guide obey'd ;
Ill fated youth ! himself the destined prey.†

H h h 3

The

* XXIII Elegy.

† Quendrida did not reap the benefit she expected from her barbarity, the Mercians having placed her uncle Cenulph on the throne. Rap. Hist. England, Vol. I. p. 55. Lal. Collect. Vol. I. p. 212.

The parish church here is a very ancient fabric, surmounted by an elegant Gothic tower, richly ornamented with niches and pinnacles. On the outer wall is sculptured the rude figure of a child. Two of its fingers are raised in the form of a benediction, and over its head is a crown. Above the door, within the porch, stands also the figure of a man, greatly mutilated, in the act of giving benediction. The arch here displays a neat specimen of the Saxon style of architecture. This church appears to have originally belonged to the church of Worcester.*

Over Arley. This village is situated near the north bank of the river Severn, which passes for a few miles through an angle of this county.* It would appear to have been at one time a much more considerable place than it is now. Leland calls it "a good uplandish town." A Roman vicinal road, which probably led from *Brennogenium*, (Worcester) to *Uriconium*, (Wroxeter) passes the eastern portion of the parishes, and now forms part of the post road from Worcester to Shrewsbury. In Arley Wood are the remains of a Roman camp, which is an exact square. On one side there is a treble ditch; but on the other sides it is only double. Mr. Shaw supposes this entrenchment to have been the work of Ostorius, who, it is well known, fortified many spots in this part of the county, during his wars with the Silures and Ordovices.

The church, dedicated to St. Peter, is a very ancient building, first erected during the reign of Henry the first, or of Stephen; but probably afterwards renewed in the time of Edward I. The nave is divided from the chancel, by a continued range of pillars. Some old paintings still decorate the windows, and there is likewise a modern one by Mr. Egginton. In an arch placed between two of the pillars, appears the monumental effigy of a knight in complete armour, cross legged, and having a lion *couchant* at his feet. This church was some years ago, thoroughly repaired by Lord Valentia; who ornamented

† Lel. Itin. Vol. VI. 76.

mented the singing gallery with various coats of arms. The pulpit desk, also the gift of his lordship, is adorned with hangings of peculiar richness and elegance.

Kinder, is a very pleasant village, situated on the west bank of the river Stour. It was formerly a market town of considerable importance; and, though the market is now discontinued, there is still a market house or townhall, in which is deposited some old armour. Here is likewise a free grammar school well endowed, but the name of the founder is unknown.

To the south of the hill on which this village is situated, between the Warren House and Sandy town, is a small plain covered with sand, where are the remains of an ancient camp of an oblong form, 300 yards in length, and 200 in breadth. Tradition says, it was the work of the Danes. Mr. Shaw, however, is rather inclined to regard it as having been constructed by Wulfere, one of the kings of Mercia, on account of its position with respect to the adjoining country. Just below the camp, appears a tumulus or barrow, surrounded by a narrow ditch, and in every way similar to that described by Dr. Stukely on Salisbury plain, which that author supposed to be Celtic.* Near it, is also a large stone of a square figure, and tapering towards the top, about two yards in height, and four in circumference, having two notches on the summit. This stone is called *Baston* or *Boltstone*.

The church is an ancient building, dedicated to St. Peter. From the form of an arch over the principal window, bishop Littleton was induced to conclude it to have been erected even prior to the Norman conquest. Here are some paintings on glass, and a few monuments deserving of notice. At the top of the middle aisle, stands a fine tomb of speckled marble; and thereon, on plates of brass, is the figure of a knight in complete armour, having his hands raised as in prayer, together with the portraits of his two wives, both dressed according to the fashion of their age. Beneath the knight's feet are the figures of seven

H h h 4

boys.

* Shaw's Hist. Stafford.

boys, and at the feet of the woman ten girls. From the inscription this monument appears to have been received in honour of Sir Edward Grey, who lived in the reign of Henry the eighth. In a portion of the chancel, which is railed in, stands a mutilated alabaster monument of very ancient date, but to whose memory it was erected is uncertain.*

Stourton castle is situated in this parish, on the west bank of the river Stour. At an early period it was the property of the Hamptons. Leland says, "Stursey, or Sturton Castle without fayle, is in Staffordshir. And I hard that there was a Lord Storton, a baron of this Storton."† It was fortified for the king at the commencement of the civil wars, but surrendered to the Parliament in 1644.

The celebrated Reginald Pole, Archbishop of Canterbury, and a cardinal, was born in this castle in the year 1500. His descent was illustrious, being a younger son of Richard Pole, Lord Montague, Cousin German to king Henry the seventh. His mother was Margaret, daughter of George, Duke of Clarence, brother to king Edward the fourth. The early part of this prelate's education was conducted by a private tutor, from whose charge he was removed at the proper age, to Magdalen College Oxford. Having finished his studies here, he went into orders, and soon after proceeded abroad, to attend the foreign universities. During which time, he was allowed a very handsome pension from Henry the eighth, who likewise conferred upon him several benefices *in commendam*. In the year 1525, he returned to England, and was received by the king with distinguished marks of favour. His court influence, however, was but of short duration; for having vigorously opposed the divorce of Catharine of Arragon, he became so obnoxious to Henry, that he was compelled to seek shelter in Italy, where he wrote his celebrated piece intituled "*De Unitate Ecclesiastica*." This work exasperated the English monarch so highly, that he not only

* Erdeswicke supposes it to have been designed for John Hampton, (or one of his ancestors) who was lord of Stourton in the time of Edward the fourth.

† Lel., Vol. VII. p. 36.





Engraved by the author from a drawing by J. C. Jones

ENVILLE HALL,
Staffordshire.

The residence of the Earl of Lichfield.

only deprived him of all his preferments, but even caused an act of attainder to be passed against him. He did not, however, sustain very material loss by this harsh conduct of his kinsman; for the court of Rome immediately preferred him to several benefices in Italy, and raised him to the dignity of a cardinal. Upon the death of pope Paul the third, he was twice elected to the vacant throne, but declined the honour, because one election was too hasty, and the other made in the night time. This truly commendable delicacy so much disoblged his friends, that they no longer afforded him their support, and of consequence the bishop of Paletrina obtained the papal see.

Immediately after the bigotted Mary had ascended the throne of England, the attainder against the cardinal was repealed, and he returned with distinguished honour to his native country. His first act, upon his arrival, was to absolve the kingdom from the papal interdict, under which it laboured on account of the apostasy of Henry the eighth. He was now advanced to the archbishopric of Canterbury; but enjoyed this dignified station only a few months, having died on the seventeenth of November 1558, the same day on which the queen herself expired.*

Barville, lying to the north of Kinver, is principally distinguished by the noble mansion of the earl of Stamford. The house, though the greater portion of it is of modern erection, still retains much of the air of antiquity. It consists of a centre, and two wings, the former receding considerably, and having an octangular tower at each end. The windows in this part of the edifice are formed by Gothic arches in the pointed style, and round the top runs an embattlement, which completely prevents the roof from being seen. The wings which stretch themselves out from the towers appear as modern erections; and behind are several later additions which, with the brick offices, are judiciously concealed from the view, so that the whole possesses an agreeable and uniform appearance.

In

In front of this mansion extends a beautiful sloping lawn, which rises boldly on the left, and is adorned by a charming lake, skirted with foliage, and a few ornamental buildings. From the side of the water a path lies through a neat shrubbery, and leads to a fine cascade, formed by the celebrated Shenstone, who indeed originally designed the whole of this delightful scenery.

At a little distance below the cascade, is a rural bridge, composed of only one plank, which crosses the stream, and is truly a very fine and picturesque object. Near this spot stands a small chapel, dedicated to Shenstone; and having its windows embellished with various paintings on glass. This circumstance, together with the thick and gloomy umbrage in which it is enveloped, impresses the mind with a sentiment of peculiar solemnity. From hence the path extends through the wood, till at last it arrives at an open level, from which there is a view up a gently ascending lawn, on whose summit is erected, with singular advantage, a handsome rotunda, overshadowed by a bold and lofty wood. The path now entering a part of this wood leads to a verdant alley, opening into a sheep walk, from a rising point of which, under a lofty yew, there are some of the richest and most enchanting prospects imaginable. At the extremity of the walk, stands the shepherd's lodge, a neat white Gothic edifice, shaded by a few trees, and partly used as an observatory by the noble owner.

The church of Enville, dedicated to St. Mary, is an ancient building, the east window of which is adorned with several shields and coats of arms; also with portraitures of St. John the baptist, St. George and the dragon, and the blessed Virgin, with a young Christ. The chancel contains an ancient alabaster monument, with figures of a man and woman, the former in armour, and the latter in the dress of her age, with a small dog collared at her feet. The inscription bears the name of Thomas Grey, and his wife Anne, who died in 1559. Adjoining to this tomb, under an arch of handsome zig-zag, is another

Other very ancient one, supporting a figure in priest's robes, the mantle reaching to his heels. It has neither arms nor inscription. The lid of a stone coffin with a cross, and the words **ROGERUS DE MORF**, inscribed upon it, was dug up in 1762,* from beneath the west end of the church, whence it is supposed that the Morfe extended to this place. A similar stone much defaced, with a fleur-de-lis and a cross, likewise lies in the entrance of the porch.

On the same side of the county with Enville, but at a considerable distance to the north, is situated the parish and village of *Pattingham*. The church is an ancient Gothic structure, having at one end a tower of a pyramidical form, surmounted by small pinnacles. In the interior are several antique and modern monuments. The church yard contains an old cross, perfectly entire. Here was found in 1700 a very valuable gold torques four feet in length, twisted towards the centre, and so uncommonly elastic, that it could be bent round the arm, waist, or neck; and easily extends itself again to its own shape.† The weight of this beautiful ornament, was three pounds two ounces; and, independent of its curiosity, was estimated to be worth one hundred and fifty two pounds. A piece of gold in the shape of a pig of lead, round on the top, and flat beneath, was likewise discovered in an adjoining field, by a boy at plough, in the year 1780.

Sedgeley, situated in the centre of this hundred, is a place of very considerable trade in iron work of different kinds. Indeed it is believed that there is not less than two thousand men and boys employed in the manufactories in this village and its immediate neighbourhood. The parish produced great abundance

* A small village here still retains the name of Morfe town. Gough's Camden, Vol. II. p. 502.

† It was wreathed by two hooks at each end, resembling the bow or handle of a kettle; and in this respect, says Camden, "it corresponds with the gold instruments found in Ireland." Gough's Camden, Vol. II. p. 500.

dance of a fat shining species of coal, which burns with a bright shining flame, and leaves a residuum of white ashes.

Near *Seasdon*, or *Scisdon*, the village which gives name to the hundred, situated on the borders of Shropshire, is an ancient fortification called Abbots or Apeswood castle, which Dr. Plot regards as a British work. The situation of this entrenchment is very lofty, and commands an extensive view, particularly to the westward in the direction of Wales. The entrenchment itself is apparently small, but the whole steep ridge of the bending bank, betwixt it and Claspill, placed at the distance of a mile, having hollows cut in the ground, over which the possessors are thought to have set their tents, the two hills at each end may probably have been the principal flanking bastions of a large camp. The lows on Womborn Heath may not unlikely have belonged to this fortification, or perhaps are burying places of some Roman of rank slain in attempts to dislodge the Britons from this strong position, so admirably calculated by nature as well as by art for a vigorous resistance.

Pattishul adjoins to Pattingham on the north, both parishes forming a sort of promontory which projects a considerable way into Shropshire. The manor here was long in the possession of the family of Astley, from whom it was purchased by Lord Pigot. The present mansion-house of this noble lord is a very magnificent and spacious building, adorned in front by a delightful serpentine expanse of water.

The church here, dedicated to St. Peter, is a very elegant modern building in the Grecian style, with a handsome turret at one end. The principal entrance is beneath a portico, supported by four handsome pillars. An armed figure forms the ornament of one corner of this front. In the interior, which is fitted up with great taste, are a few very noble monuments. One of them supports the recumbent figures of Sir John Astley and his lady, and is inscribed thus:

"Sir John Astley, Knight of the most noble order of the Garter."

The

The date, if it ever was affixed, is now completely erased; but it is conjectured by Mr. Shaw, that this gentleman lived in the reign of Henry the seventh or eighth. The other tomb is to the memory of Sir Richard Astley, who is represented in *basso relievo* at the head of a squadron of horse. On each side of Sir Richard, are the arms of a knight, and other warlike accoutrements. The figures of his two wives are placed on pedestals at each end of the monument which is adorned above with some elegant carved work and other embellishments.

WOLVERHAMPTON.

This town, though not a borough, is by far the most extensive and populous in Staffordshire. It is a place of great antiquity; but nothing is recorded concerning its history till the year 996, when we are informed, that the pious Wulfruna, relict of Aldhelm, Duke of Northampton, built and endowed a monastery here. Previous to this period its name was simply Hampton; but it now began to be distinguished by the appellation of *Wulfrune's Hampton*, since modified or corrupted into the term *Wolverhampton*.

Wulfruna, having completed her foundation, placed in it a dean and several prebends, or Secular canons, with other suitable officers. These last, however, it seems, did not long continue to promote the object for which they were instituted; but, in defiance of every precept, moral and divine, became so vicious in their lives that their dean Petrus Blesensis, after trying all possible means to reclaim them in vain, was compelled to surrender his deanery into the hands of Hubert, archbishop of Canterbury, about the year 1200,* humbly beseeching him that Cisterians might be substituted in their stead. This change, however, from some cause or other, now unknown, did not take place; but the deanery, with the collation of the prebends, was
united

* Petrus Blesensis Epistolar. Lib. Ep. 152, Ad Innocent. III.

united by Edward the fourth to that of Windsor. In this state did it continue till the dissolution, after which it was refounded by queen Mary, whose acts were confirmed by king James the first. This monarch appointed the celebrated Marcus Antonius de Dominis, archbishop of Spalatro, to the conjunct deanries, which are now in the same condition as then, but the colleges are distinct.

Wolverhampton is a well built and healthy town, notwithstanding its proximity to numerous coal mines, a circumstance which, no doubt, is in great measure owing to its lofty situation. The trade which it carries on in locks, keys, and such like articles, is truly astonishing. Nothing indeed can exceed the ingenuity and skill of its locksmiths, their productions surpassing both in beauty and usefulness, all articles of the same kind made in any other district of England.*

This town, however, notwithstanding its extensive manufacture, does not increase in houses so rapidly as some other towns in the interior. The evident cause to be assigned in explanation of this fact is, that the land here is almost wholly church land, which is not a tenure sufficient to encourage people to lay out their money in erecting buildings.

No

* Plot, adverting to this subject, says, But the greatest excellency of the blacksmith's profession, that he could hear of in this country, lay in their making locks for doors, wherein the artisans of Wolverhampton seem to be preferred to all others, they making them in suits, six, eight, or more, in a suite according as they are bespoke, in such a manner that the keys shall neither of them open each others lock, yet one master-key shall open them all. Hence these locks being placed upon separate doors, and the inferior keys kept by distinct servants, though neither of them can come at each others charge, yet the master can come at them all. Moreover, the master, by turning his key in any of the servants' locks but once extraordinary can prevent the servants themselves from coming at their charge. Neither shall the servant spoil his key or the lock in making the attempt. Nay, they can so construct locks, that a master or mistress can tell how often it has been opened or shut, even during a whole year together. These locks they make either in brass or iron boxes so curiously polished, and the keys are so finely wrought, as not to be exceeded. Plot's Hist. Stafford. p. 375—376.

No parish perhaps in South Britain is of greater extent than this, it being little short of thirty miles in circumference, and containing seventeen very considerable villages and townships. The population of the town alone, according to the parliamentary returns of 1801, was estimated at 12,565 persons, viz. 6,307 males, and 6,358 females. Of this number, 3,356 were returned as employed in the various branches of trade and manufactures. The lighting, paving, and cleaning, is conducted under the authority of an act of Parliament. The principal market day is Wednesday; but an inferior one is likewise held on Saturday.* Two canals, the Staffordshire and Worcestershire Grand trunk, and the Birmingham canal, pass in this immediate vicinity, and form a junction about a mile to the north.

The collegiate church, now dedicated to St. Peter, is very agreeably situated on elevated ground towards the eastern side of the town. It is a stone building, consisting of a lofty nave, two aisles, and a chancel. The latter is most incongruously fitted up in the modern taste. A very fine Gothic tower, embattled at the top and richly ornamented, rises from the centre. Five pointed arches resting on octagonal pillars support the nave. The pulpit, which is composed of stone, is an object of great interest and curiosity. It is placed against one of the south pillars, and is adorned with very beautiful sculptured niche work. A flight of steps forms the basement of this pulpit, at the foot of which is fixed the figure of a large lion, executed in a very superior style. To the south of the tower in Mr. Leveson's chancel, formerly called the "Lady Chapel," stands an alabaster monument, to the memory of John Leveson and his wife, who died in 1575. The figure of the man is in armour. The great chancel contains a fine full length statue of brass, in honour of the celebrated Admiral Sir Richard Leveson, who commanded under Sir Francis Drake, against
the

* The market was granted by Henry the third. Gough's Camden, Vol. II. p. 500.

the Spanish Armada. The noble tomb of Colonel John Lane, already mentioned as having distinguished himself by his attachment to Charles the second, stands in a small chancel usually called Mr. Lane's chancel. Here is likewise a curious stone font of an octagonal shape, and evidently of great antiquity. On the shafts, in bass relief, are the figures of St. Anthony, St. Paul, and St. Peter. The first bears a palm branch and shield, the second holds a club, and the third has his hands raised in the act of supplication. The other parts of this font are beautifully embellished with crosses, sprigs, tulips, roses, and a multiplicity of other flowers.*

In the churchyard, fronting the south porch, stands a round column twenty feet in height, and displaying a vast profusion of rude sculpture work, arranged in separate compartments. On the side towards the north west, near the base, and under the spandrils of a sort of arch, appear the figures of a bird and beast looking back at each other. Above these is a band of Saxon leaves, which divides them from several other figures like dragons, with forefeet and long tails, in lozenges. A second band similar to the first separates these from a compartment of figures of beasts and griffins. To them succeeds a third band, and above it are various grotesque carvings. The whole is surmounted by a regular plain capital, which might have at one time supported a cross; but this is uncertain, as is likewise the question, whether it is of Danish or Saxon construction.†

The precise site of the monastery founded here, by Wulfruna, is
not

* The living of this church is only a curacy, with four chapels in the gift of the dean and chapter of Windsor. The dean is lord borough of this town, and of the villages of Todsall, Hatherton, and Petshal, with Ludley, in Worcestershire. There are nine leets within the jurisdiction; and the dean has all manner of privileges belonging to the view of frank-pledge, goods, deadlands, escheats, marriage of wards and clerks of the markets. Each of the portionaries have a several leet. Gough's Camden, Vol. II. p. 495, 500. Plot's Natural History.

† Shaw's Hist. Stafford. Vol. II. p. 161.

not perfectly ascertained. Towards the south west corner of this cemetery may be still seen a very large room or vault, about 30 feet square, supported by strong massy groins which meet in the centre of the roof. This work is entire and unmutilated, and seems to have been the basement story of an edifice of considerable magnitude. The wall is three yards thick, and on both sides of the doorway are some slight vestiges of sculptured cornice stones.

The other church, dedicated to St. John, was erected by subscription, an act of Parliament having been obtained for this purpose in the year 1755. A deficiency of funds, however, prevented it from being completed till the year 1776. It is built of stone, and is pewed and painted according to the taste of modern times. These are the only churches belonging to the establishment in this populous town; and, as we are informed, there are not more than three chapels besides, in the whole parish, though it contains a population of thirty thousand persons. This certainly shews some manifest deficiency of zeal, for the interest of religion in those whose duty it is to pay attention to such matters. Here is a plain stimulus, if the expression may be allowed, for the encouragement of schism, and secession from the established church. It is in a manner compelling the inhabitants either to abjure the Christian faith, or to become dissenters, a change which is soon produced by habits of attending dissenting places of worship, where the comments on the Gospel may be often erroneous, but are always delivered with energy and fervour, not with the sleepy listlessness of a schoolboy dunce. In conformity with this observation it is a fact, that almost every sect, relatively speaking, is more numerous here than in any other district of England; conjointly comprising at least two fifths of the entire population of the parish. Here are of course a number of dissenting chapels.

The Free-school is a handsome brick building, founded and endowed by Sir Stephen Jennings, a native of this town, and

Lord Mayor of London, in the year 1668. Besides this school, there are two charity ones for fifty boys and forty girls. An hospital for a priest and six old women was erected here under the sanction of the royal licence about the year 1394, by Clement Lusen, and William Waterfall. The *Workhouse* is an inconvenient structure, with small windows, low rooms, and dark staircases.

Some curious customs are mentioned by Mr. Shaw and several other writers, as having prevailed here even so late as the commencement of the last century. Among these was the practice of *processioning*. On the Monday and Tuesday of rogation week the Sacrist, resident prebendaries, and the members of the choir assembled, at morning prayers with the charity children, each of whom carried a long pole decked with a profusion of different kinds of flowers. Prayers being finished, the whole assembly marched through the streets with great solemnity, the clergy, singing men, and boys, arrayed in their sacred robes, bringing up the rear. The origin of this ceremony is referred to very high antiquity, and would appear to have been a continuation of the Roman offerings of the *Primitia*, adapted to our purer worship by the early Christians. Another custom was that of certain officers patrolling through the fair dressed in antique armour, and preceded by a band of musicians, playing the *Fair tune*.

In the skirts of the town are ranged, at determinate distances, a number of large trees, which serve to mark the limits between the township and the parish. These are denominated by the inhabitants Gospel trees, from the practice of reading the Gospel under them, when the clergy were wont to perambulate the boundaries. Every part of this vicinity is covered with gardens, and when the eye is directed to any considerable distance, the country presents a scene sufficiently indicative of its agricultural prosperity.

The village of *Bilston* lying to the east of Wolverhampton, and comprehended within the boundaries of that parish, though

a distinct township as to all parochial purposes, is one of the most extensive villages in this country. It contains upwards of 1000 houses, and stands upon rising ground at a short distance from the north bank of the Birmingham canal. The great London road to Holyhead passes through it at the distance of one hundred and twenty-one miles from the metropolis, with which it keeps up a constant and active communication. Its manufactures consist chiefly of japanned and enamelled goods and buckle-chapes, which are wrought in great perfection. Furnaces for smelting iron ore, forges, and stilling mills worked by steam, are frequent in this neighbourhood, which abounds with vast mines of coal, iron stone, quarry stone, and clay. Here is also found a particular species of sand, much used in the casting of metals.

The chapel of Bilston is a neat modern structure fitted up in a very elegant style. The living is a perpetual curacy, within the exempt jurisdiction of the dean of Wolverhampton; but the right of nomination and presentation is vested in the inhabitants at large. Here are besides two places of worship for Dissenters, and a very excellent charity school.

At Bradley, a hamlet immediately adjoining to this village, there is a very extraordinary phenomenon. A fire in the earth has now continued burning for upwards of forty years, defeating every attempt which has been made to extinguish it. This fire has already reduced nearly six acres of land to a mere calx. It arises from a burning stratum of coal, about four feet thick, and eight or ten yards deep, to which the air has free access, in consequence of the main coal having been dug out from under it. The calx affords a very excellent material for the repair of roads; and the workmen, in collecting it, frequently find large beds of alum, of an excellent quality. What is likewise curious, the surface is sometimes covered with sulphur for many yards, in such quantities as to be easily gathered.

Tatenhill is a small village, picturesquely placed on the declivity of a steep eminence, and lying at the distance of two

miles north from Wolverhampton. Etymologically considered its name is a corruption of Theotenhall, i. e. the hall of nations or of pagans.* A severe battle was fought in this neighbourhood, between the Danes and Edward the Elder, at the commencement of the tenth century.† Leland calls "Tetenhaul a village and a colledge about a myle from Wulnerhampton."‡

The colledge was founded previous to the Norman conquest, and had a dean and five prebends, till the period of its dissolution by Henry the eighth. This building, as Mr. Shaw informs us, stood at the east end of the present church, which is not improbably itself a part of the original foundation. At present the church is a royal chapel dedicated to St. Michael, and enjoys all the privileges of such peculiars. The inscription on the seal is "Sigillum Commune Ecclesie Collegiate de Tetenhall." The eastern window of this building is a very curious ancient one, containing a painting on glass, which represents the archangel trampling on a dragon. The font is of an octangular shape, and beautifully ornamented with Gothic sculpture work.

Wrottesley, a village in this parish, is distinguished by some very extensive remains of antiquity, concerning which various ideas have been adopted by different antiquaries, and even at different times by the same enquirer. From the appearance of these remains, there seems to be little doubt, but that they are the ruins of an ancient city, and not simply a fortified station, or encampment. Of this the parallel partitions within the out-wall, like streets running different ways, are regarded by Dr. Plot, as sufficient evidence. This author first conceives them to be the vestiges of a British town, but upon reconsideration inclines to think them, "the true remains of the old Theotenhall

* Gough's Camden, Vol. II. 495. Plot's Hist. Stafford, p. 394, 395, 415.

† Henry of Huntingdon describes this battle as so terrible and bloody, that a just idea of it could scarcely be conveyed by the most exquisite pen. Hcn. Hunt. Hist. Lib. V. cap. 5. Vide ante, p. 721.

‡ Leland's Itin. Vol. VII. p. 36. § Plott's Staffordshire, p. 395.

hall of the Danes,"* which he supposes was finally raised by Edward the elder, after his signal victory already mentioned.† Mr. Salmon, in his Survey of England, opposes these sentiments, and maintains that this is the *Uriconium* of the Romans; and it must be confessed that the square stones, large hinges, and apparent regularity of the streets, give no small degree of weight to this opinion;‡ which appears to have met with the approbation of the learned Gough, in his additions to Camden.§ These gentlemen, however, do not deny that it might be occupied by the British, Saxons, and Danes, successively after the departure of the illustrious conquerors of the ancient world. Dr. Plot mentions some enormous stones as having been dug up here, one of which made an 100 loads, and another, after suffering a diminution of 10 loads, still required 36 oxen to draw it.

The surface of this parish is generally level; and, together with the country immediately around it, is adorned with many handsome seats and hamlets. There is here a peculiar species of pear, which Mr. Pitt says, is not to be found at any considerable distance elsewhere. The tree on which it grows is large, and for the most part uncommonly prolific. This fruit is of excellent flavour, and bakes and boils well; but will not admit of being kept above the period of a month. In consequence of these circumstances, and its making but an indifferent perry, it frequently happens that in plentiful seasons, large quantities are given to the hogs, the price brought by them in the market being scarcely adequate to defray the expence of picking and carrying in.||

I i i 3

North

* Plott's Staffordshire, p. 415.

† Salmon says that the present name of this place may not improbably be derived from the Saxon term *Wrotan*, signifying to root or turn up as swine do, and the word *ley*, denoting a field. *Wrotan ley* then would signify the field in which the ruined city stood. Salmon's Survey, Vol. II. p. 523.

‡ That the Romans had some action hereabout seems, indeed, extremely probable, from the existence of a Roman work at Morton, east of it.

§ Gough's Camden, Vol. II. p. 500.

|| Pitt's Survey Staff. p. 120.

North east from Wolverhampton lies *Bushbury* or *Byshbury*, near the northern extremity of this hundred. The situation of the village is pleasant, though much sequestered, being sheltered by a lofty hill;* covered with a profusion of ancient *jews*. Its ancient appellation *Biscopesburie* would seem to point it out, as having been the residence, or chief seat, of some of the Mercian bishops.

The manor of Byshbury was long the property of the Goughs, ancestors to the celebrated antiquary of that name. In the hall is still kept the chair in which Charles the second sat, when here, among other places, during the period of his concealment in this county. There are, likewise, in this house several spoons of solid gold, discovered under the soil, which had probably belonged to the Byshbury family; but they bore no crest, or other mark whereby to ascertain the fact. A skeleton in complete armour was found about the same time when cleansing a pit in an adjoining field. From the dress, Mr. Shaw supposes the deceased to have been a cuirassier in king Charles's service.

The church, dedicated to the assumption of the blessed Mary, formerly belonged to the priory of St. Thomas's juxta Stafford. It is an ancient stone edifice, in the pointed style of architecture, surmounted by a massy embattled tower. The nave is spacious, and rests upon two handsome arches. The chancel, more modern than the rest of the building, is of excellent workmanship, particularly the roof which is constructed of oak, and is supported by flying buttresses curiously carved with the arms of Byshbury and Grosvenor. Several paintings on glass serve to ornament the windows of this division of the church. One of these represents a man in sacerdotal robes, kneeling to a lady carrying a babe. The monument of Hugh Byshbury, who is said to have built the chancel, is situated here. It was opened about 50 years ago, and found to contain a stone coffin with

* According to tradition the great London road to Chester passed over this hill, upon which are to be seen the vestiges of several mounds.

with a skeleton tolerably entire, and a chalice now used for the communion service. Nothing else in this church seems to require notice except the tomb of Thomas Whitgrave, Esq. celebrated for the protection he afforded to the monarch last mentioned.

Near this village, appears a very considerable tumulus which Dr. Plot supposes to have been of Roman construction, seemingly upon no other ground but that the brass head of the bolt of a catapulta was dug up in a small wood here called "the Burchen Lesow." That the opinion of this author may be correct we will not deny; but we cannot refrain from reprobating the absurd practice of concluding every work to be Roman, near which a coin of that nation, or other trivial remnant of antiquity, has been discovered.

Codsall, situated in the north-west corner of this hundred, deserves to be noticed on account of the beauty of its church, which consists of a chancel and north aisle, separated by very fine pointed arches. The roof is of wood, carved in a most curious and elegant manner. Some handsome zigzag work ornaments the porch, and in the chancel stands a noble altar monument erected in honour of Walter Wrottesley, whose figure lies in a recumbent posture on the top. His head rests on his helmet, and at his feet is a gauntlet.

A sulphureous well in this parish springs up in a very uncommon manner through the old stump of a tree. So strongly is the water impregnated, that it leaves a yellow appearance on every part of the surface over which it flows. Anciently this well was famed for the cure of leprosy; and it still retains celebrity as a specific for the itch.

CUDDLESTON HUNDRED.

BREWOOD is a market town, situated about a mile and a half to the south of the Watling-street, and at the distance of nine

miles from Stafford. A small priory of Cistercian or Benedictine nuns, dedicated to the Virgin Mary, was founded here in the reign of Richard the first, and continued to flourish till the general dissolution, when its revenue was valued at 11*l.* 1*s.* 6*d.* per annum.

This town is neatly built, and delightfully placed on one of the branches of the river Penk. According to the population returns of 1801, it contained 2,867 inhabitants, of whom 1,405 were males, and 1,462 females. The market is held on Friday every week. The Free school is an excellent institution. Processioning was prevalent here as well as at Wolverhampton during the last century, on which occasions it was customary for the inhabitants to adorn their wells with boughs and flowers.*

Several severe shocks of an earthquake were felt at this place in 1678, which were preceded by a loud rumbling noise, resembling distant thunder. The bishop of the diocese is said to have had a seat here before the Conquest.

Sharehill lies at nearly an equal distance between the Worcestershire, and the Wireley and Essington canals. On the south and north sides of this village are two encampments supposed, from their square form and proximity to the Watling-street, to be of Roman construction. The area of the largest measures somewhat more than a rood in extent. In the church here, which, with the exception of the tower, is of modern erection, are several curious antique monuments, preserved at the demolition of the ancient edifice. At Hilton, which is situated south from this place, there was formerly an abbey of Benedictine monks, founded by Henry de Audeley, in the year 1223, which was valued at the time of the dissolution at 89*l.*

* This custom of adorning wells is a relict of popish times. When that religion prevailed, this ceremony was instituted to distinguish such wells as were celebrated for the cure of particular diseases, and generally took place on the saints' days, when the people diverted themselves with music and dancing, and had cakes and ale.

89l. 10s. 1d. per annum. No vestiges of this fabric can now be discovered.

The service enjoined to be performed by the lord of the neighbouring manor of Essington to the lord of Hilton is so peculiar, that it seems to deserve particular notice. By his charter the former was bound to bring a goose to the hall here, every New-year's day, and drive it at least three times round the fire while Jack of Hilton was blowing the fire.* This part of the ceremony being finished, then the lord of the manor of Essington, or his bailiff, carried it to the table, and received a dish from the lord of Hilton, for his own mess. This service was actually performed for upwards of one hundred and forty years; but nothing has been heard of it since, nor is the origin of the custom known.

Crossing the Watling Street in a north east direction from hence, the traveller arrives at *Cannock*; an ancient village situated on the southern boundary of the extensive waste, from whence it derives its name. This waste stretches from hence to the south bank of the river Trent, comprehending according to Mr. Pitt, about 40 square miles, or 25000 acres.† A great proportion of the land here consists of a good light soil, well adapted for turnip or barley culture; but towards the east and south parts it is extremely gravelly, and covered for a large extent with heath.

Different opinions are entertained by antiquaries concerning the etymology of the term Cannock, some deriving it from the Cangi, and others from Canute, the first Danish king of England.‡ But, whatever may be the derivation of its name, it was doubtless a celebrated forest during the period of the Mercians, being the favourite

* This Jack of Hilton is a little hollow image of brass, which leans upon its left knee, and has its right hand placed on its breast. In its mouth is a little hole just sufficient to admit the head of a large pin; and water is poured into it by a hole in its back, which is afterwards stopped up. This image being set on a strong fire, the air evaporates through a pole at the mouth with a continued blast, which blows the fire very strongly.

† Pitt's Survey of Staffordshire, p. 144.

‡ Vide ante, p. 718.

favourite chace of their monarchs. It was then and for many succeeding centuries covered with a profusion of majestic oaks. Several centuries, however, have past away since it was wholly stripped of its foliage, and converted into a bleak and dreary waste. This sad change is well described by Drayton in his *Polyolbion*, but much more beautifully by Mr. Masters, in his *Liter Boreale* of 1675. So elegant, indeed, is the composition of the latter, that we deem it unnecessary to apologise to our readers for introducing it here, as every individual, who possesses the smallest taste for refined poetical description, must afford to it his meed of praise :

" Hinc mihi mox ingens ericetum complet ocellos,
Silva olire passim Nymphis habitata serique,
Condensæ quercus, domibus res nata struendis ;
Ornaudoque foco, et validæ spes unica clavis.
Nunc umbris immissa dies, namque æquore vasto,
Ante, retro, dextrâ, laeva, quo lumina cunq̃ue,
Verteris una humili consurgit vertice planta,
Purpureoque erice tellurem vestat amictu,
Dum floret suaves et naribus adflât odores
Hæc ferimus saltem amicæ solatia sylva."

Cannock

* The Rev. Richard Williams of Fron, Flintshire, has given the following beautiful translation of this poetical effusion :

" A vast, a naked plain confines the view,
Where trees unnumbered in past ages grew;
The green retreat of wood Nymphs ; once the boast,
The pride, the guardians, of their native coast.
Alas ! how changed, each venerable oak
Long since has yielded to the woodman's stroke ;
Where'er the cheerless prospect meets the eye,
No shrub, no plant, except the heath, is nigh.
The solitary heath alone is there,
And wafts its sweetness in the desert air,
So sweet its scent, so sweet its purple hue,
We half forget that here a forest grew.

Pennant's Journey, p. 134.

Cannock is abundantly supplied with coal, and likewise with a particular species of iron ore called Cannock stone, which oxygenates so rapidly as to be incapable of much useful application.

At Radmore, within the boundaries of this waste, there formerly stood an abbey for the Cistercian order of monks. These religious were originally formed into a society about the year 1140; but at that period their retreat was only a hermitage. The empress Matilda and king Stephen, however, having conferred upon them a considerable extent of lands situated in the neighbourhood, they founded a monastery. This was at first merely a priory, but was shortly after constituted an abbey at the instigation of the empress. It soon, however, lost the distinction it had acquired by the removal of the monks to Stonely in Warwickshire, a measure which was the result of the inconveniences of this situation. Some large single stones fixed here have frequently been the subjects of antiquarian investigation. The design of their erection, notwithstanding, still remains undetermined.

PENKRIDGE.

This market-town lies at the distance of several miles to the northwest of Cannock, and one mile to the south of Stafford. It derives its name, as is generally supposed, from the river Penk, which flows past it, as does likewise the Staffordshire and Worcestershire grand trunk canal.

Penkridge is undoubtedly a place of very great antiquity. According to some, it is the *Pennocrucium* of the Romans, mentioned in the Itinerary of Antoninus. On this point, however, there is considerable diversity of opinion among antiquaries. Camden regarded it as having been that Roman station; but Plot,* Stakeley, and Horsley, transfer the latter to Stretton, a village situated

* Plot's Nat. Hist. Stafford, p. 401. Horsley 19. Simon will not have Pennocrucium to be in this neighbourhood at all, maintaining it to have been situated at Oldbury in Warwickshire. Survey of England, Vol. II.

situated in the neighbourhood, a little below the bridge, under which the river Penk crosses the Watling Street. But though differing with respect to the actual site of *Pennocrucium* these authors all agree in considering Penkridge as having risen on its ruins. A brass head of the bolt of a catapulta was found here about the middle of the last century.

The church of Penkridge was formerly collegiate. In the reign of king Stephen, it was bestowed on the bishop and churches of Lichfield and Coventry. Afterwards, however, the advowson was given by Hugh Huose, to the archbishop of Dublin in Ireland, who was generally, in subsequent times, dean here, and had the collation of all the prebendaries, who were thirteen in number. At the dissolution this church became the property of W. Riggs and William Buckbird. It is an old building with a square tower, but possesses no architectural features worthy of particular detail.

This town carries on a considerable trade in iron works, but on a scale much inferior to the places which we have already noticed. According to the Parliamentary returns of 1801, the number of inhabitants here was estimated at 1143 persons, of whom 560 were males, and 573 females. The market is held on Tuesday.

Here is an excellent charity school for twelve boys and eight girls. The fair in this place is universally allowed to be one of the first in England both for saddle and draught horses.

At the village of *Lapley*, situated a short way to the south of Penkridge, there was formerly an alien priory of black monks belonging to the religieuse of the abbey of St. Remigius at Rheims, on whom it was bestowed by Aylmer, Earl of Chester and Mercia, in the time of Edward the Confessor. Having shared the common fate of alien priories in the reign of Henry the first, it became the property of the college of Tong in Shropshire, by virtue of a grant from that monarch.* The church

* Paroch. Antiq. Stafford, M. S.

church is an ancient edifice, having a very noble tower which rises between the chancel and the body.

South from this village is Stretton, where stands the handsome mansion-house of Mr. Monckton. It originally belonged to the family of Congreve, ancestors to the celebrated dramatic writer of that name.

RUDGELEY.

This town is situated in the north east extremity of Cannock chase, near the south bank of the river Trent, and on the immediate confines of this hundred. The Grand Trunk canal, which connects the navigation of the rivers Trent and Mersey, runs past the north side of the town which is one hundred and thirty-one miles distant from London, and seven from Lichfield.

Rudgeley is in general well built; and many of the houses are even elegant. It carries on a considerable trade, for which its situation is admirably adapted. The chief manufactures are hats and felts, but many other articles are likewise made here. It is a market-town, and has a great annual fair, principally for horses of the coach breed. The market is held on Tuesday, and is one of the best supplied in the county.

This town is under the government of two constables, who are chosen by the inhabitants every year. According to the Parliamentary returns of 1801, it contained 428 houses, and 2030 inhabitants, of whom 978 were males, 1052 females. On the bank of the canal which is situated betwixt the town and the Trent stands a large warehouse for the stowage of goods.

The church here is an ancient building, dedicated to St. Augustin, and consisting of two low aisles of equal dimensions. At the west end rises a handsome tower. In the interior, on the south side of the body, is a circular arch ornamented with chevron mouldings; and at the east end are two or three piscinas. The living is a vicarage, valued at five pounds two shillings, in the patronage

patronage of the dean and chapter of Lichfield. The manor was anciently the property of a family, who either gave their name to the town, or derived it from hence. In the reign of Edward the third, we find some of this family sheriffs of the county; and one a knight of the shire about the same time. How long they continued to possess is somewhat uncertain; but, in the beginning of the sixteenth century, Erdeswick mentions it as the property of the bishop of Lichfield, from whom it was alienated to the king by bishop Sampson in 1547.*

Several handsome seats adorn the neighbourhood of this town. Among the more remarkable of these, are Hagley Hall, formerly belonging to the Westons, and now the residence of Lord Curzon, and Wolsley hall, the seat of Sir William Wolsley. This last, which is in the hundred of Pyrehill, shall be more particularly noticed hereafter. The Grand Trunk canal is carried over the Trent on a noble aqueduct, within a short distance from hence. Two miles to the north of it upon Cannock Chace, is a celebrated cold bath, which springs from beneath a hill. Several iron forges, corn mills, and colour mills, are placed on a small brook which flows through the centre of the town.

Church-Eaton, is a small but neat village, pleasantly situated at the distance of four miles and a half to the west of Penkridge. The church is a handsome edifice, in the Saxon stile of architecture. Its tower is extremely low, and supports a spire of modern erection, the contrast of which has not a little injured the appearance of the whole fabric. The south side of this church likewise appears to be modern from the square form of the windows.

The stone at Little On in this parish, mentioned by Plot as having impressions upon it resembling the feet of oxen, was in existence within these twelve years, but has since been removed.

Gnosshall. This village lies to the north of Church Eaton, on the
banks

* Pennant's Journey, p. 129.

banks of the Rowley water, which flows into the Trent. The chief object worthy of attention here is the church, which was formerly a college for secular canons valued at 47l. 6s. 8d.* It is of large dimensions, consisting of a nave and two aisles, a chancel and two aisles, together with a tower which rises in the centre, and a cross aisle. Exteriorly, with the exception of the west end, which has five lancet windows and three perpendicular buttresses, it appears to be of the latest style of English architecture. The tower to the height of the roof is in the Saxon style, the western arch being adorned with flat receding chevron mouldings. The staircase and passage to the belfrey are of the same era. In the latter are three very small circular columns, supported by short thick pillars, the capitals of which are variously ornamented. The columns in the nave are octagonal, and the arches pointed. The font is a circular stone, two feet six inches high and two feet wide, with a large hollow at the top. Here is a well-executed altar tomb supporting a recumbent figure in chain mail. It has no inscription.

The minister, together with the churchwardens of this parish, annually choose a jury consisting of twelve men at least, who join not only with them and the sidemen in making the presentments to the official, as it is a peculiar, but are empannelled, and deliver a verdict on all ecclesiastical matters, concerning which any dispute may arise among them during the following year.

PYREHILL HUNDRED.

ABBOT'S BROMLEY is situated in the centre of a sort of circular recess formed by the hundreds of Totmanslow and Offlow, at the distance of six miles to the west of Tutbury. The river Blythe runs between it and the Trent. This place was originally called simply Bromley, the term Abbot's being afterwards added from the circumstance of an abbey having been founded

* Tanner's Notitia, p. 495.

founded in its neighbourhood. It was at a later period likewise denominated Pagets Bromley, from the noble family of that name, on whom the abbey was bestowed at the time of the general dissolution.

This town was formerly a place of more importance than at present, and possessed a variety of valuable privileges which are now wholly neglected. It consists principally of one extensive street, the houses in which are for the most part built of brick, and present an appearance of considerable neatness. The townhall, where the court-leet and court-baron of the lord of the manor are held, stands nearly in the middle. A free school, founded here in the year 1603, by Mr. Richard Clarke, is still a flourishing institution; and besides it there is an almshouse, well endowed by Mr. Lambert Bagot, for six poor old women. The church is a large building, the tower of which is surmounted by a lofty steeple containing a chime of excellent bells. Very little trade is carried on in this place; but it has a good market held on Tuesday. The population of the whole parish, according to the Parliamentary returns of 1801, was estimated at 808 inhabitants, of whom 397 were males, and 411 females, mostly employed in agriculture.

A remarkable custom, called the *Hobbyhorse Dance*, is mentioned by Dr. Plot, as having existed in this town within the memory of many persons alive at the period when he wrote. It was a sort of amusement which the inhabitants celebrated at Christmas, on New-year's Day, and Twelfth-day. On these occasions a person danced through the principal street, carrying between his legs the figure of a horse composed of thin boards. In his hands he bore a bow and arrow, which last entered a hole in the bow; and stopping on a shoulder in it, made a sort of snapping noise as he drew it to and fro, keeping time with the music. Five or six other individuals danced along with this person, each carrying on his shoulder six rein deers' heads, three of them painted white, and three red, with the arms of the chief families, who had at different times been proprietors

†

of

of the manor painted on the palms of them. "To this hobbyhorse dance, there also belonged a pot which was kept by turnes by four or five of the chief of the town, whom we call *Reeves*, who provided cakes and ale to put into this pot. All the people who had any kindness for the good interest of the institution of the sport, giving pence a piece for themselves and families, and so foreigners too, that came to see it; with which money the charge of the cakes and ale being defrayed, they not only repaired their church but kept their poor too; which charges are not now perhaps so cheerfully born."

This practice seems to have existed at other places besides Abbot's Bromley; for we find hobbyhorse money frequently mentioned in the old parish books, both of Stafford and Seighford. It continued in force till the era of the civil wars between the Parliament and the House of Stewart, at which time Sir Simon Degge informs us, that he saw it often practised. The same author adds, in another part of his work, "that they had something of the same kind, to get money for the repair of the church of Stafford, every common council then collecting money from his friends, and whosoever brought in the greatest sum to the hobbyhorse was considered as the man of best credit, so that they strove who should most improve his interest: and, as he remembered, it was accounted for at Christmas."*

At the distance of two miles from this town stands *Blithfield*, the seat of the Bagots. It is an ancient building in the form of a court. The park which lies at some distance from the house is covered with a profusion of large oaks, and displays some very beautiful and picturesque scenery. This mansion contains a splendid collection of paintings, many of which are executed in the first style, and by the ablest masters.

Lord Treasurer Burleigh, is represented with a white beard, botmet and collar of the garter, the George, and a white wand. This nobleman was one of the most distinguished statesmen England ever produced, and the great favourite of queen Elizabeth.

* Paroch. Antiq. Stafford MS. Gough's Camden, Vol. II. p. 514.

beth, who had the sagacity to discover his talents, and to employ him in the highest offices of the state. Honesty, temperance, moderation, industry, and justice, were prominent features in his character. His magnificence was attended with hospitality, and his various deeds of alms amounted to no less a sum than five hundred pounds per annum. "His life," says Mr. Pennant, "was as excellent as his death was calm and serene. He died in the fulness of years and glory, envied, as his greatest enemy declared, only because his sun went down with so much lustre."

Henry earl of Huntingdon, a cotemporary of his Lordship, is painted in the same style as in his picture. He likewise appears with the collar of the garter, his beard forked; the date "1588, æt. 52." But though the paintings resemble each other, the characters of the persons they exhibit were very different; lord Huntingdon was no less dissipated than Burleigh was considerate and prudent.

Sir Walter Aston of Tixal is painted on board. He is dressed in black, and wears short hair and whiskers. The seams of his coat are laced with gold, and a triple gold chain hangs loosely upon his breast. This gentleman was ambassador to Spain during the negotiations about the Spanish match, in the reign of James the first, and was favourable to the designs of the young prince and his favourite Buckingham. He is said to have possessed great prudence as well as firmness in his political conduct; but he was ambitious of parade and dignity, and hence dissipated a considerable fortune during his residence at the court of Madrid. Charles the first, soon after his accession to the throne, raised him to the rank of a Scotch peer, by the title of lord Forfar.

The picture of *Walter earl of Essex*, father to Robert the unfortunate favourite of Elizabeth, represents him at half length in full armour, highly ornamented. This nobleman appears to have been a man of singular courage and sagacity, having distinguished himself greatly during his government in

in Ireland. The ministry, however, neglected to support him ; and, in consequence, he returned to England to prefer his grievances to the Queen herself. He was artfully received, and soon after sent back with promises of better usage. These promises, however, were tardy of performance, so that his Lordship, fully sensible of the intricate situation in which he was placed, was seized with melancholy, which terminated in a flux, and put a period to his existence. Some indeed asserted, that he was poisoned at the instigation of Dudley earl of Leicester, who was enamoured of his wife ; but this accusation seems to be unjust, though the rapid and indecent marriage of that Nobleman with his Countess afforded a very strong ground of suspicion.

The various portraits of the *Bagots* claim attention, on account of the steady loyalty of that family in the reign of Charles the first. Colonel Richard Bagot sometime governor of Lichfield, who was slain at the fatal battle of Naseby, is exhibited in a buff coat, and wears his hair long.

The portrait of *Mrs. Salisbury of Bachymbed* is a most curious antique drawing. Her costume is a vast high sugar loafed hat and kerchief bordered with ermine. Two of her grandchildren appear near her, the one Sir Edward Bagot, and the other Elizabeth afterwards countess of Uxbridge, both of them children of her daughter Jane, who married Sir Walter Bagot, and conveyed the Welsh estate into that family.

The portrait of *Mary, countess of Aylesford*, is admirable both for style and execution. She is represented at an advanced period of life in a sitting posture, and dressed in a pale brown satin gown, white hood, and handkerchief, with an apron and short ruffles, exhibiting a reproachful comparison, to the unsuitable and fantastic modes of the present age.

Mary, daughter to *Hervey Bagot, Esq.* of Pipehall, is another individual whose portrait deserves to be noticed. She was twice married, first to *Charles Berkley* earl of Falmouth, and afterwards to *Charles* earl of Dorset. This lady is of a dark
K k k 2 complexion,

complexion, and was distinguished as the brown beauty of the gay court of Charles the second. Grammont, speaking of her, says, "She was the only one who had the appearance of beauty and wisdom among the maids of honour to the duchess of York."

Here is also a head of the celebrated actor and dramatic poet *Moliere*. This great character, whose works reflect so much honour on the country which gave him birth, affords one among the numerous examples of prejudice and bigotry, so conspicuous in the history even of modern times. Having died in his profession, he was denied Christian burial by Harlai de Chauvalon, archbishop of Paris. Lewis the fourteenth, however, after much intercession, prevailed so far as to get him buried in the church; but the curate refused giving countenance to the act, and it was with some difficulty the populace would suffer his body to pass to the place of interment. How different were the sentiments which dictated this conduct from those which animated the breasts of the French people, at the close of the last century, when every one breathed war and hatred against all the maxims of religion.*

The church of Blithfield dedicated to St. Leonard is an ancient piece of architecture, having its interior adorned with a number of fine sculptured monuments of the fifteenth century. Some of these tombs support effigies of the persons they are designed to commemorate. In others the figures are simply engraven on the stone or on brasses. The monument of Sir Edward Bagot is mural. From the inscription on it he appears to have been a strong assertor of episcopacy in the church, and hereditary monarchy in the state, which probably was the occasion of his tomb being placed over the altar. Several other monuments in honour of the Bagots appear here. There is likewise one of an Aston of Broughton, and another expressed by a little skeleton

* A full catalogue of this collection will be found in the appendix to the last edition of Mr. Pennant's Journey.

ton of a Broughton about three months old. These monuments are not in any shape particularly remarkable.

Cotwick. This village is most beautifully situated on the north bank of the river Trent, at the distance of two miles from the town of Rudgeley. Nothing can be more delightful than the scenery which this part of the county exhibits. The river here flows through a vale of the richest verdure, adorned with a variety of elegant villas. To use the words of Mr. Pennant: "It is perfectly prodigal in its beauties, and spreads at once every charm that can captivate the eye."

The church is an ancient building, dedicated to St. Michael, and contains a number of monuments in honour of the families of Anson and Wolseley. The burying place of the former is made *d'antique*, in the shape of a catacomb. One to Sir William Wolseley, has an inscription in commemoration of his unlucky and singular fate. He was drowned in his chariot, owing to the accidental bursting of a mill dam, on the 8th of July 1728, in the neighbourhood of Longdon. The accident was the result of a thunder storm. His four horses were lost; but, strange to tell, the coachman escaped, having been carried by the torrent into an orchard, where he remained fast till the flood abated.

STAFFORD.

This place, which, as the name imports, is the county town, is situated on the north bank of the river Sow, at the distance of three miles from its junction with the Trent. The derivation of its name as well as its origin, are matters of great dubiety and difference among antiquaries. Camden tells us the spot or island, where it now stands, was originally called Betheney, and was for many years the retreat of Berthelin, a distinguished hermit in ancient times.* At this period of course it may

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* "Berthelin," says Dr. Plot, "was the son of a king of this country and scholar to St. Guthlac, with whom he tarried till his death. After which, though

be presumed, no inhabited town existed here; nor is it known in what reign, or even age, its foundation occurred. Merlin the British prophet, who flourished about the year 480, writes that two kings should "*dubium praelium committere propter Leenam in VADO BACULI,*" which last two words have been translated "at Stafford." This translation, however, seems at best but conjecture; and the foresight of the prophet will not probably be considered, by the judicious enquirer, as in any shape worthy of attention. The first mention then of this town which can be relied on is in the year 913, when the Saxon chronicles* inform us that Ethelfleda countess of Mercia, and the celebrated sister of Edward the elder, built a castle here.

What was the condition of Stafford at that time cannot now be determined; but it would appear to have been a thriving place, as we find it shortly after considered as the chief town of the district. Of the mighty castle which Ethelfleda built no vestiges now remain; so that the precise site on which it stood is extremely uncertain. Dr. Plot† supposes it to have been situated within the entrenchments at Billington, at some distance to the south of Stafford, and appears to found his conjecture from the lands there being still a remaining part of the demesne lands of this barony.‡ Mr. Pennant, however, main-
tains

though now unknown to his father, he begged this island of him, where he led a hermit's life for divers years, till disturbed by some one who envied his happiness, when he removed into some desert mountainous places where he ended his life."

Plot's Hist. Stafford. p. 409.

* Saxon Chron. 104.

† Plot. Stafford. p. 410.

‡ We speak thus, following Mr. Pennant, who has been pleased to assign this opinion to Dr. Plot. The perusal of the latter gentleman's remarks on the subject of the castles here does not we confess, however, impress us with the same idea. It seems to us, that Dr. Plot does not mean that the castle built by Ethelfleda stood within the entrenchments at Billington, but some other ancient one, which Mr. Erdeswicke supposes to have occupied the site of that built in later times by Ranulf, the first Earl of Stafford; or, at least, to have stood near it. The words of Dr. Plot, after noticing many of the
great

tain these works to be a British post, which might be afterwards occupied by the Saxons; but he gives no opinion on their connection with the castle. Edward the elder is likewise said by Camden * to have built a tower here on the north bank of the river about a year after the erection of that which his sister founded. This tower Mr. Pennant† conjectures to have stood on the mount called by Speed Castle-hill, and now distinguished by the appellation of *Bullyhill*. A church which stands near it is named Castle-church, perhaps from being raised on the site of one more ancient, which might have been attached to the castle.‡

From this time nothing remarkable is mentioned concerning Stafford or its castles, till the era of the Norman conquest, when it appears from Domesday, § "that the king had in this town eighteen burgesses in demesne, and twenty mansions of the honour of the Earls. It paid for all customs 9*L* *libras dena-*

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riorum

great actions of Ethelfleda are; "She also built a castle at the town of Stafford, on the north side of the river Sow (Billington lies to the south of that river) whereof I could not hear any footsteps remaining, that upon the hill above the town, at near a mile's distance, the prospects whereof are both here annexed, being built long after by Ranulf or Ralph, the first earl of Stafford, though Mr. Erdeswick tells us he had a certain deed dated *apud castrum justa Stafford*, long before the days of the said Earl Ralph: whence he concludes he did but rectify the castle, and not new build it, which perhaps may be true: but for my part I conjecture, that the first Stafford castle mentioned in that deed might rather stand within the entrenchments at Billington, which perhaps may be only the remains of this castle, and not of the battle between King Randolph and Duke Wada, as was thought above, &c."

Plot's History, p. 416.

* Gough's Camden. Vol. II. p. 496. † Pennant's Journey, p. 104-5.

‡ Sir Simon Degge, (says Mr. Gough in his additions to Camden) in his M. S. notes on Dr. Plot's history, affirms there was a castle within the town, near the Broad Eye, and in his time a bank called the Castle Bank. This (adds Mr. Gough) may be the same noticed in Speed's Map now called *Bully hill*.

Gough's Camden, Vol. II. p. 410.

§ Fol. 246.

piorum in money."* The same ancient record likewise informs us that the king built a castle here, the custody of which was given to Robert de Tonei, younger son of Roger, standard-bearer of Normandy, one of the chiefs who followed the fortunes of William. This Robert de Tonei, in consequence, took the name of Stafford, which continued through his illustrious descendants for many centuries. The castle, so built by the Conqueror, does not seem to have stood long; but by whom, and on what account it was demolished is unknown. It has been already observed, that Mr. Erdeswick says, it was restored by Ralph de Stafford a distinguished warrior in the reign of Edward the third. That it was restored and continued to flourish till the seventeenth century is undoubted; but the truth of Mr. Erdeswick's assertion, that its renewal was the work of Ralph, the first earl of Stafford, certainly requires some confirmation. During the contentions between the unfortunate house of Stewart and the Parliament, this castle was one of those which was garrisoned for the support of the royal cause. After the commencement of open war, however, it did not hold out long, being taken by the parliamentary forces under Sir William Brereton, in 1644, and soon after demolished.

The following curious letter relative to a previous demonstration made by the general above mentioned to induce Lady Stafford to surrender the castle is copied from Mr. Shaw's history of the county.

"May it please your Excellency.

"In my last I gave your excellence an account of the taking of Stafford, by a very small force, wherein the Lord was pleased to worke, and bring to pass that which was as much beyond our power as above our hopes and expectations, to whom I
desire

* Who the Earls were that are mentioned in this passage does not appear; nor can we conjecture, unless it might be the Earls of Mercia. If any earls of Stafford existed previous to the Norman conquest, their history is totally lost. No earls of the Norman dynasty were created till the reign of Edward the third.

desire the whole glory and honour may be attributed. Since that time we have done our utmost endeavours to fortify the towne, and make good the breaches. Upon Thursday we went to the castle, faced it, and demanded the same. Theould Lady Stafford had betaken herself to the castle, removed her family, and some say all her goods. Wee made as large our forces as possible, to induce my Ladye to admitte some of our men to secure the castle, and gave her assurance of all protection (wee were able to give) for her person, goods, servants, and tenants. Wee acquainted her with the miseries which would inevitably fall upon her house and estate, and did most earnestly beseech her to bee so just to herself, and to those that were to succeed her, as not to be persuaded by wicked and obstinate counsell, and to bringe unavoidable destruction upon herselfe, and to do great injury to those that should succeed.

"Wee spent much time in this treatie, but it was vain and fruitlesse. Wee conceive her heart was hardened by the pernicious counsell of some priest, jesuites, or other incendiaries about her, who delight in nothing but fire and sword. And seeing nothing is more apparent than that they thirst after blood, I doubt not but the righteous Lord will measure out unto them a bloody portion to drinke, and will establish peace and quietnesse untoo his people in due time.

"These fair propositions being rejected, the forces returned, and before I came to the town I saw some of the poor outhouses sett on fyre, to try whether these would worke theire spirites to any relentinge but all in vaine, for from the castle they shot some of our men and horses, which did much enrage and provoke the rest to a fierce revenge and to practice those extremities, which consumed before the next ordinance, almost all the dwelling houses and out houses to the ground.

"Since that time we heare there are several considerable persons in this block up castle which we resolve to observe
and

and attend as much as possible untill we can recover the same, and disperse them.”*

Though, as already mentioned, the origin of Stafford is uncertain, there seems every reason to suppose it was a town of some importance before the Norman conquest. In Domesday-book it is termed a *city*, and was then governed by two bailiffs; but the first charter of incorporation now extant, was not granted till the reign of King John.† From the tenor of this deed, however, it is evident it was a corporate place long previous to that period. It merely confirms privileges enjoyed “from remote antiquity,” and does not confer any new ones. The word used in this charter, to point out the previous existence of these privileges is *antiquitus*, which would not certainly have been used to denote a period so recent as that of the Conquest. Hence it is concluded to have been a borough in the time of the heptarchy. Nay, it may not perhaps be too extravagant a conjecture to suppose it might have been originally a Roman municipal town, or even a British city. This, indeed, is mere conjecture; and, if really the case, the town was most probably reduced entirely to ruins, in the conflicts either between the Romans and Britons or the Danes and Saxons. It, however, may be observed, that its situation accords very nearly with the general description given by Cæsar of British towns, which are represented as being placed on gentle eminences, barricadoed with trees, and generally surrounded with morasses and ditches, in the vicinity of extensive pasturages; and that a pasturage of many hundred acres of lands was annexed to the town of Stafford from the earliest times is evidenced by its more ancient charters.

The charter by king John to this town was confirmed by
Edward

* Shaw's Hist. Stafford, Vol. I. p. 161.

† This instrument is probably one of the oldest deeds now extant in this kingdom. It is dated the first day of May in the seventh year of King John's reign, and is of course one year more ancient than the charter to the city of London, and six years earlier than Magna Charta.

Edward the sixth, and many new privileges added to those it already possessed. Queen Elizabeth established the assizes and sessions here, by act of Parliament, in the first year of her reign. According to Mr. Gough, being here on her progress in 1575, and perceiving the town to be rather on the decline, she enquired the reason, when she was informed it was owing partly to the decay of capping, and partly to the circumstance of the assizes having been removed to some other town; whereupon, her Majesty replied, that the statute relative to capping should be renewed and established better; and that she would grant the inhabitants the privilege of ever after having the assizes held in their town.

Though placed low, the situation of Stafford is extremely pleasant. It is distant about one hundred and thirty-five miles north-west from London, and sixteen from Lichfield. The streets are well paved, and the houses for the most part built of stone in a regular and compact manner. In ancient times it was defended, except on the side towards the Sow, by a wall and ditch supplied with water from that river. It was never, however, capable of making a defence against a besieging army; at least it never stood a siege. Sir William Brereton, general of the republican army, took it by surprise in May 1643, with the loss only of a single man. These walls were wholly demolished at this period, and the ditch filled up, so that no remains of either can now be discovered, even by the scrutinizing eye of the antiquary.

The form of this borough is that of an irregular ellipsis, the greatest diameter of which extends from south-east to north-west. Formerly the grounds adjoining to the walls on the outside appear to have been marshy, or at least could easily be laid under water in such a way as to envelope the whole town.* Pennant says, that Stafford had anciently four gates; but for our part we are inclined to think that author is mistaken

* This idea was suggested to us by a correspondent, who mentions having seen an old map, in which the swamps were distinctly marked.

mistaken in this particular, as we could only trace three; notwithstanding our most diligent enquiries. That formerly near the bridge over the Sow, called Green-gate, and constituting the entrance to the town, on the road from London, was taken down in 1780. The arch of the east-gate was standing within these few years back; one side of a groove for a portcullis, indeed, may still be traced. The Gaol-gate on the north road was in ruins so early as the year 1680, if we may credit an old drawing by E. Stancy, the same individual who made the sketch of Tixall for the engraving of that seat in Dr. Plot's natural history. Subsequent to this period it seems to have been rebuilt and established, as a house of correction or prison, for the borough, one side of which building is still standing, while the other is occupied by the Free-school.

In virtue of the charter by king Edward, already mentioned; Stafford is governed by a mayor, recorder, ten aldermen, twenty common-council-men, a town clerk, and two serjeants at Mace. This borough sends two members to Parliament; and has done so since the twenty-third year of the reign of Edward I.* It does not acknowledge any patron; but whether it really stands clear of undue influence, is a question we will not take upon us to determine. In early times it appears to have been customary here, to nominate one of the townsmen

* The following items relative to this borough, extracted from an old book, formerly in the possession of Mr. Shaw, were communicated to us by a correspondent.

"1519. This yere John Forzess and Humphry Barber, being burgesses of the Parliament for the town of Stafford, received certayne waigtes out of the King's exchequer, which were appoynted to be kept here within this towne, as in the Kinges treasure, 10 Hen. 8,

"1532. Thomas Bickley, William Terry, Baylives."

"1552. This yere Mr. Erdeswicke and Mr. Bickley, being burgesses of the parliament for this towne, were allowed theire chardges from the towne."

Among the archives of the corporation is a power of attorney from Mr. Erdeswicke to a person in the borough to receive the sum allowed.

as colleague to some neighbouring gentleman, in the representation. Lord Viscount Chetwynd of Ingestry at one time possessed considerable interest in this borough; but it is believed the influence of the present proprietor of that mansion is comparatively little. The right of election according to Mr. Pennant * is vested in the inhabitants paying scot and lot, and the return is made by the Mayor. The number of voters is estimated at four hundred. Sons of burgesses, and persons who have served an apprenticeship of seven years within the borough, are entitled to admission as burgesses, whenever they think proper to claim the privilege.—

Stafford contains a variety of public buildings and institutions worthy of particular notice.

The *County Hall*, situated near the centre of the town, is a very spacious and neat modern edifice, erected somewhat more than twenty years ago. This building measures one hundred feet in front, and contains a number of elegant apartments appropriated to different purposes. The assembly room, which reaches nearly the whole length of the front, leads to the court rooms which are placed on each side. In the centre is a staircase, at the top of which is the Grand Jury room, and several other offices. Behind this structure is an elegant and convenient market place.

The *County Infirmary* stands in the Foregate on the north road, and is a plain respectable building. It was finished, according to Mr. Pennant, in the year 1772, † and is supported by voluntary contributions and benefactions amounting to eight or nine hundred pounds annually.

The *County Gaol* is situated almost directly opposite to this hospital. It is an extensive edifice of modern erection, having been built within these last twenty-five years. This gaol contains

* Pennant's Journey, p. 105. We have just been informed, however, that this statement is an error on the part of Mr. Pennant, and that in fact only the Mayor and burgesses are entitled to vote at elections.

† MS. (Penes me) says it was not built till the year 1777.

tains about one hundred and fifty separate cells or apartments for prisoners. Its regulations and internal economy according to our information are excellent, and reflect great honour on those who have the superintendence and management of it.

The *Free School* is an ancient building. From an inscription on a board in St. Mary's church it appears to have been founded by King Edward the sixth in the year 1550. This monarch gave, for the support of a Master and Usher in this school, "all his tithes of the Fore-gate and Fore-gate fields, and Lammascotes, and of the High Street in Stafford; part of the property of the prebend of Marston; together with the lands belonging to the free chapels of St. John Baptist and St. Leonard in Forebridge,* lately dissolved, with certain rents and orbits in Stafford; worth 20*l.* a year, now worth 250*l.*" Leland says, "there is a Fre School for grammar in Stafford, made by Sir Thomas Countre parson of Ingestre, by Heywodde and Syr Randol a chauntre preste of Stafford."

The *Alms-houses* of Stafford were built or purchased at different times, and are appropriated for the occupation of a certain number of aged and necessitous poor, inhabitants of the town. Each house has a garden appended to it.†

This

* Probably it should have been written St. John Baptist in *Foregate*, and St. Leonard in Forebridge.

† The following account of contributions to these alms-houses also appears on a board in St. Mary's church :

"Sir Martin Noel about the year 1640, at an expense of 1000*l.* erected 12 alms-houses, as a shelter for some of our aged and necessitous poor, with a garden to each house. He also gave 30*l.* and 20 bibles to the poor with one church-bible and 8 folios. Towards the maintenance of poor persons and children in these houses, John Chetwynd Esq. of Ingestre in the year 1698 gave 100*l.* Mrs. Abnett 12*l.* Philip and Thomas Foley 100*l.* and in the year 1711 Dr. Binns gave 50*l.* There is also the yearly sum of 28*l.* reserved out of the acre rents of Coton-field for the same purpose. Robert Palmer, rector of Stafford in the year 1638, gave two cottages to the poor people, honest and aged. The corporation, in the year 1701, purchased four cottages in the East-gate Street, to be used as Alms-houses for ever."

This town, though it contains only one parish, has two churches belonging to the establishment, one dedicated to St. Mary, and the other to St. Chad.

St. Mary's Church is a large building, in the form of a cross, and consists of a nave, two side aisles, a transept, and a chancel of three aisles. The transept is one hundred feet in length, and about twenty five in breadth. In the centre of this part of the church rises the tower which is of an octagon shape, and is thirty-three feet square at the base. The aisles which compose the chancel are of unequal widths; but, taken together, exceed the dimensions of the body.

When this church was built is not exactly known. Its original foundation no doubt took place at a very early period. It has since, however, been almost entirely rebuilt, but some marks of the more ancient structure are still visible. The style of architecture in general is the early pointed. To the north of the doorway there is a fragment of the Saxon billet mouldings with fret under it. This fragment is evidently a part of the first building. The head of the western window has trefoils in circles, and upright mullions, which seem to have been originally three quarter attached columns. The aisles are lighted by three lancet shaped windows. In the nave are several windows looking to north and south, of much later date than any in the church. They have in all probability been struck out long after the erection of the nave, as there are distinct marks of a sharp pointed roof both at the west end and against the tower. There are, likewise, some remains of the original perpendicular buttresses of the aisles, some of which on the north side come to a point in front.

In the south transept is a large window, the arch in which has certainly been altered, being flat, as likewise the doorway under it. This window has, in all probability, been formerly divided into two or more of a lancet shape. The windows in the chancel are in the style of the reign of Henry the sixth, or earlier. That which faces the east has undergone some alterations

terations in the disposition of its mullions and tracery. There seems, likewise, to have been another over it, if we may judge from the cell that remains. The arches in this division of the church are elegantly light, supported by four clustered three quarter columns, the capitals being composed of thin laminæ. What is singular, in the construction of these arches, is that the columns diminish in height from the transept to the east end, and the two rows do not answer each other, so that no two are equal as to the length of shafts. The present floor, which is horizontal, covers the bases of part of them, and exhibits the foundations of others. The north transept seems, at one time, to have possessed a very considerable degree of elegance, from a pinnacle that remains on the buttress, at the east end. The doorway exhibits some receding mouldings and embossed ornaments. A window which is placed over it appears to be of much later date than the transept itself, on account of its numerous divisions and fanciful ramifications. It is greatly too wide in proportion to its height. The north porch is probably the original one. Round the columns are trefoil heads and bands, and a series of plain leaves constitute the capitals. In the tower already mentioned are eight windows, two looking towards each of the four cardinal points.

The nave is separated from the aisles by five highly pointed arches supported on four semicolumns clustered against a square somewhat larger than their diameter. The architrave, the abaci of the capitals which are composed of leaves some having a small volute, and the flat under side of the arches, are little improved from the heavy massive style of the Norman era.

The altar-piece in this church is an elegant piece of workmanship. It is of the Corinthian order of architecture, and painted in imitation of marble.

The organ erected by Longman and Coy of London is considered by judges as one of the finest in the kingdom. At the northwest of the tower there was formerly a chantry,

. or

or chapel, separated by oak screen work. The whole was removed about twenty years ago. In the nave is a seat appropriated for the three town magistrates, in that style called arabesque. It was fixed up about the year one thousand seven hundred and eight, and was the gift of a person named Bromley, a native of the town.

The font presents a singular piece of antiquity. It is very large and of a clumsy construction. The bottom part of it is a square, of two feet diameter, and is ornamented with figures of men or baboons, on three sides, all lying flat on their bellies. On the fourth side is the figure of a ram. Above this square are figures of four lions, which form this part of the font into an octagonal shape. Each of these lions supports an upright figure, between which are four semi-globes. The whole is surmounted by projecting mouldings and fascia measuring three feet six inches across. The height of the font is three feet three inches, and the interior or cavity is sufficiently large for the immersion of infants. In this font are two small holes, one which runs through the centre of it, and the others which penetrates the sides. The inscription appears to be in the Saxon character; but being much plastered with paint, it is not possible to decypher it correctly. All which we could make out of it, was as follows :

CLEX. ME. FACIENS
TALE. * * * * IES
* * DISCREIVS.

A number of ancient and modern monuments occupy different portions of this church. The most conspicuous among these, and indeed the only altar tomb, is that in honour of Lady Ann Aston, and her husband Lord Edward, of Tixal. From the inscription, on the edge of this tomb, it would appear that it was raised during the lifetime of his Lordship, over the body of his wife. The figure of the lady only was then placed upon it; that of his Lordship having been added since. These

figures differ much, even in proportional size, as well as in the style of their execution, and hence evidently point out the fact, of their being fixed there at different periods, and by different artists. On the wall, above this tomb, is an inscription in praise of the Lady, which is so awkwardly placed with regard to the present monument, as to induce a belief, that it has originally stood in another position, or at least that the figures were at first placed in a different direction.

This tomb was formerly surrounded by Gothic screen work. It is now inclosed by an iron railing, the space within which is appropriated as the burying place of the Cliffords of Tixall.

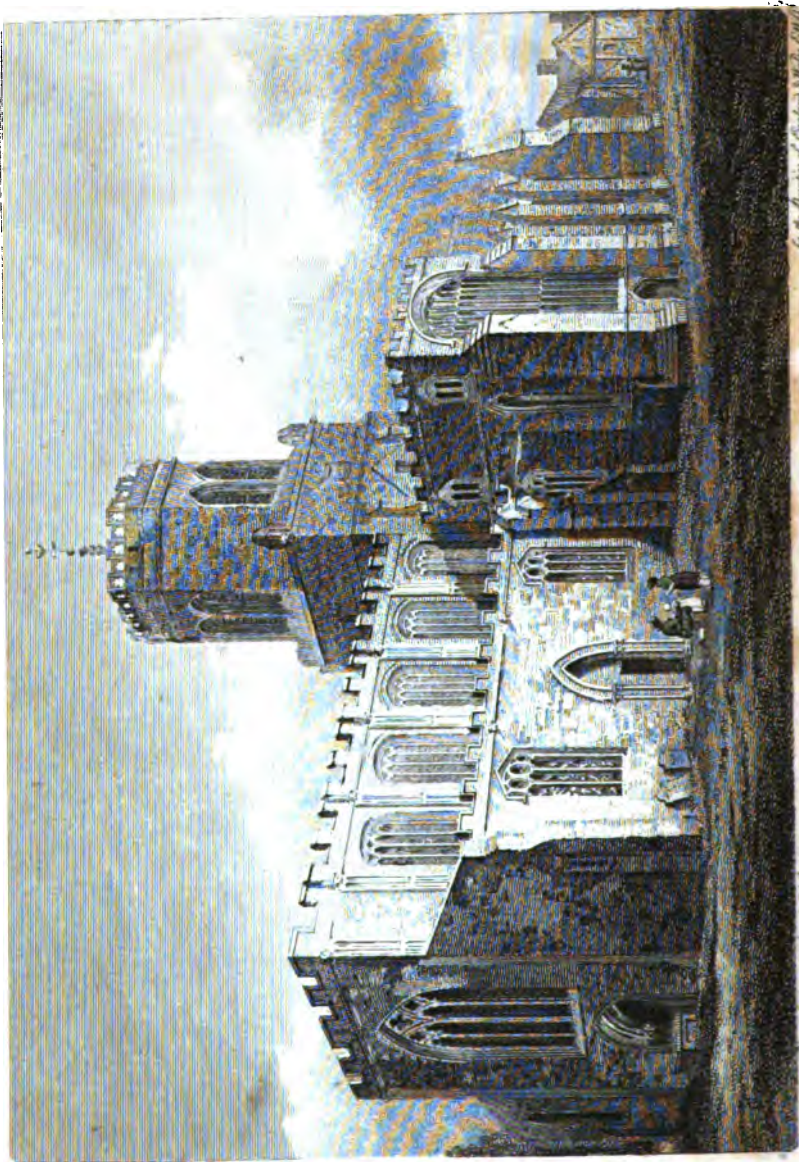
The monument next deserving of notice in this church is that of Sir Edward Aston, and his Lady Joan; whose figures are represented in alabaster, under a large canopy. Sir Edward was the person who constructed the curious mansion of Tixall, which shall be more particularly noticed, in a subsequent part of our work. This gentleman is said to have been a distinguished knight in the reign of Henry the eighth. He died in 1567.

Over this tomb appears the following inscription embossed in old English or uncial letters. The letters were originally gilt, but the gilding is now almost completely effaced :

*Hic Joana facit domina Aston, quæ pia quondam,
 Edwardi Astoni militis uxor erat
 Filia sic et erat Thomæ Adly's domus uxor
 Probit est Penho, miles et ipse fuit
 Illa quidem villæ de Tixall ædificandæ
 Assiliatricis præbuit usq. manus
 Hæc matrona potens, probis secunda benigna
 Prudens atq. sciens, ingeniosa fuit.
 Qui mundas inde. preceat libor quoq. dicam
 Quæstus annos vivere digna fuit,
 Deinde his venit, fatalis quæ manet omnis
 Debita naturæ solvere quæq. iubet*

Septembis





For the Churches of England & Wales, 1841.

**ST. MARY'S CHURCH,
Stafford.**

Designed by the architect, James A. Spence, Esq., 1841.

Septembris die viceno, heu perit illa
 Atq. secundo, ut aiunt, mors tua his nimia est.
 Immo non perit sed olympica regna petiit
 Quae pater alterius praeparat ipse suis,
 Non mors est, quam nos scimus * * * mortem vocam
 Sed vero vita est, vivimus atq. deo.
 Anno milleno quingentes quoque his sex
 Fac quingentia des, et duo deficient.

Against one of the pillars in the chancel, stands a very handsome antique monument, which appears from the inscription to have been erected to the memory of lady Barbara Crompton. "Heire of Richard Hudson, Doctor of Lawe and late wife of Sir Thomas Crompton Jvdge of the High court of Admiralty of England, Advocate for Queen Elizabeth, and kinge James of piouse memory; Vicar Generall to the Arch-bishopp of Canterbury, and Chancellor to the Bishopp of London. Whose body lyeth interred in the P'ish church of St. Gregory, by St. Paules London. She lived his Widdow three and thirty yeeres and departed this life fourth day of March 1641 aged 72." Below this part of the inscription appears a recital of the names of her children, and the different families into which they were married, but we omit it as too long for insertion here. Besides these there are a variety of other monuments in this church; but neither they nor the numerous gravestones, which form the pavement of the chancel, merit particular description.

The church of St. Mary's in the times of Popery was collegiate. King Stephen bestowed it on the bishop and chapter of Lichfield and Coventry some time previous to the year 1136, but the precise year is not known. In 1445 the patronage of this church, having somehow or other reverted to the crown, was granted by Henry the sixth, to Humphrey duke of Buckingham. At the time of the dissolution, in the reign of Henry the eighth, it consisted of a dean and thirteen preben-

daries, as is stated in Dr. Tanner's Notitia. The living is now a rectory in the gift of the king.

Westward, from the church, at a very short distance, there formerly stood a very ancient building, which Mr. Pennant supposes to have been the dean's house; and most likely his opinion is correct. In a MS. (penes me) it is said to have been "evidently the nave of a church, (with the north aisle remaining) consisting of five plain circular arches or circular columns; the window and door at the west end were pointed." This building, however, whatever might be its original destination, does not appear to have been ever set apart for divine worship. It had long, previous to its demolition, been occupied as a Free School, and its materials were upon that event chiefly employed in rebuilding another on the site of the old Gaol.

The other church of Stafford, which is dedicated to St. Chad, is a very old structure. Its architecture is an imitation of the most ancient Saxon plan, which assigned one half of the whole dimensions, to the nave, one quarter to the tower, and the remainder to the chancel. About seventy or eighty years ago this church was cased with brick. Some portion of the perpendicular buttresses of the old building, however, can still be seen. The north side of the chancel exhibits the only fragment of Saxon architecture now extant in this ancient borough. It consists of two small circular headed windows, supported by projecting fascia about five inches deep; the beads being about one inch in diameter. The tower is in the latest pointed style, and would be a handsome object, but for the circumstance of the stone being so extremely friable that its ornamental parts are rapidly going to decay. In this tower there is now only one bell; the other four having been sold for the repair of the church.

St. Chad's parish is extremely small, not comprehending within its boundaries more than twenty houses, the rents of which are chiefly paid to the dean and chapter of Lichfield cathedral. From these and other circumstances it is conjectured

tured in the MS. several times already mentioned that this church is of much older institution than that of St. Mary's, but we must confess the conclusion does not appear to us clearly warranted by the premises.

Besides the churches belonging to the establishment there are several places of worship appropriated for the meetings of Quakers, Independents, Presbyterians, and Methodists, of which sects the two last are by far the most numerous.

Stafford, previous to the dissolution, contained a variety of monastic institutions. At the north end of the walls stood a house of *Franciscan* or *Grey Friars*, which Erdeswick tells us was founded by Sir James Stafford of Sandon. Henry the eighth granted this cell to James Leveson, in the thirty first year of his reign, when its annual revenue was valued at 35*l.* 13*s.* 10*d.*

Here was likewise a *Priory of Black Canons*, founded according to some authors by Richard Peché, bishop of Lichfield and Coventry, about the year 1180, but according to others by Gerard Stafford, who thought proper to compliment the bishop with the title of founder, because it was built upon a portion of his Lordship's property. Which of these accounts is true we cannot determine; but this much is certain, that the bishop always manifested a strong partiality for this house. Upon resigning his see, indeed, he entered himself one of its religious, and continued in that situation till his death. It was dedicated, as appears from the *Anglia Sacra*, to St. Thomas Becket exactly ten years after his death. The number of its religious was limited to seven, whose revenues were 198*l.* a year. After the general dissolution the king granted it to Rowland bishop of Lichfield.

This house was very pleasantly situated close to the river Sow, about two miles to the east of Stafford. Its chief remains consist of a building with two circular doorways, and oblong square headed windows, a few pilasters of half columns in the boundary wall, an arch way and two fossils in the garden, two

foliated pendants that ornamented the roof, and a fragment of sculpture exhibiting four heads, three of them looking up towards the highest. The stone upon which they are sculptured is about two feet long, and ten inches and a half deep. The hair of each of the heads is well disposed, and the countenances are good. One of the lower ones would appear to have originally leaned upon the shoulder of the tallest. The area of this monastery seems to have extended over several acres, inclosed by a stone wall of considerable strength.

Ralph Lord Stafford bestowed a portion of ground on the green at the southern extremity of the town, on the *Friers Austins* upon which they founded a religious establishment, about the year 1344, for the sake of his soul and that of his two wives (Katharine and Margaret) Sir Humphrey Hastings, knight, and that of Edward the third. The tombs of this great family were removed to the church here from Stone, at the time of the dissolution, but very soon after went entirely to ruin. This house was granted to Thomas Neve and Giles Isam, in the first year of the reign of Queen Mary.*

The chief trade carried on in Stafford consists in the manufacture of boots, shoes, and cutlery. There is, likewise, a considerable business in tanning, both for home consumption and for exportation.

The ancient custom of *borough English* still prevails in this town, by which the youngest son succeeds to property, as heir at law, in preference to the elder children. The foundation of this custom is not very well ascertained; but the probable conjecture concerning it is, that it had its origin, in the presumption that the youngest child was the least capable of providing

* Leland, speaking relative to this house, says, "Ther wer dyverse tumbes of the Lordes of Stafford, in Stone priory made of Alabaster. The images that lay on them were, after the suppression of the house, caryed to the Friers Angustine, in Fordedridge alias Stafford Grene as flumen. And in this Friers hang a Petigre of the Staffordes."

viding for itself; and this idea, in certain conditions of society, is not perhaps altogether without some show of wisdom.

The remains of the castle of the celebrated barons of Stafford are placed about a mile and a half to the south-west of the town, on the summit of a singular hill, the ascent of which on all sides is extremely smooth and gradual. So much, indeed, is this the case that we strongly suspect it has been originally levelled by art for the sake of embellishment. The chief, and indeed almost the only, portion of this castle now standing is the keep or stronghold, placed on an artificial mount of an oblong form, measuring one hundred and five feet by fifty. The walls, which are about twelve feet high, were some years ago cleared and made of the same height, by — Jerningham, Esq. At that time a variety of silver coins were discovered, in general of a later date than the reign of king Edward the sixth, together with a plain silver cross, a cannon ball, two small millstones, and the lower portion of a large font or piscina. Each angle of the keep is surmounted by small octangular towers, and there is likewise one on the south west side. It contains three separate rooms or apartments with fire places in each, and also steps leading up to loop holes. The thickness of the walls in this building is eight feet, and they are so constructed that it is difficult to determine where the entrance was placed. An intention of rebuilding this edifice, or at least a considerable part of it, has been lately manifested; and, indeed, some portion of it has in consequence been already erected. A deep foss or ditch surrounds the whole castle, and one side has the additional defence of a high rampart.

South from the castle stood the manor house, the usual residence of the noble family of Stafford. It was fortified by Ralph de Stafford in the reign of Edward the third, who had granted him permission to make castles of all his manor-houses both here and at Madeley. The area of this ancient seat is

still easily discovered, by the moat which surrounds it remaining unfilled up.

The town of Stafford formerly gave title to one of the most ancient and powerful families in England. William the conqueror conferred the title of Baron of Stafford on Robert de Stafford, who had performed for him many signal services, both in his progress to the throne, and after he had been established on it. Ralph Stafford was advanced to the dignity of earl of Stafford, by Edward the third. This nobleman married the heiress of Hugh Audley earl of Gloucester, and left a son named Hugh, who died on a pilgrimage to Rhodes. He was succeeded by his son Thomas, who dying without issue, Edmund his brother obtained the title and estates. Edmund married the daughter and heiress of Thomas of Woodstock, duke of Buckingham, to which title this family were subsequently elevated. Henry Stafford, duke of Buckingham, was beheaded by Richard the third. Edward Stafford the last Duke of that name met the same fate in the reign of Henry the eighth. His descendants enjoyed the dignity of lords of Stafford, to the third generation, when his great grandson Henry, having married the grand-daughter of Thomas, earl of Arundel and Surrey, he was created baron of Stafford, and his Lady baroness Stafford in her own right, by Charles the first. Soon after Henry himself was advanced to the rank of a Viscount in the year 1640. This nobleman was beheaded on Tower Hill, in consequence of his being concerned in the Popish plot; but Henry his eldest son was created earl of Stafford, in the fourth year of the reign of James the second. John Paul Stafford Howard, his nephew, and the fourth Earl, dying without issue, the title became extinct; but it was again revived in the year 1786 by the elevation of earl Gower to the dignity of Marquis of Stafford, which title is now enjoyed by his son the second Marquis.

John Stafford, a Franciscan friar of considerable celebrity, was born here, as is generally supposed towards the close of
the

the fourteenth century. He was, according to Fuller, "No contemptible Philosopher and Divine." His principal work was a History of England written in Latin.

Edmund Stafford, chancellor of England in the reign of Henry, was likewise a native of this town. He was brother to Ralph, first earl of Stafford, and consequently son to Edmund baron Stafford; Richard the second preferred him to the bishopric of Exeter; and Fuller * informs us that some authors assert, he was likewise bishop of Worcester, and ultimately archbishop of York; Godwin,† however, makes no mention of him as ever having held any other see but that of Exeter; and his authority we are inclined to regard, as decisive of the question. This prelate was a great benefactor to Stapelton's Inn, now Exeter college, in Oxford, having settled two fellowships in it, and furnished liberal endowments for their support.

Another distinguished character, a native of this town, was Thomas Asheburn, who lived in the fourteenth century. He was educated chiefly at the university of Oxford, where he afterwards obtained a fellowship, and entered into orders. Wickliff met in this divine a most vigorous and active opponent to his new doctrines. Not contented with exerting all his talents, and knowledge, in endeavouring to prove their falsity, he caused a convocation to be called at London, in the year 1382, where the writings of the reformer were solemnly condemned.‡

Thomas Fitzherbert, a learned and ingenious writer of the seventeenth century, was born here, or at least in this neighbourhood, in 1552. The place of his early education is unknown; but, in 1568, we find him removed either to Exeter or Lincoln college Oxford, where he continued to improve himself, till disgust at the heresy of the times, as he called it (being a zealous Catholic,) induced him to quit a public life, and retire to his patrimonial estate. Here, however, he did
not

* Fuller's Worthies, Vol. II. Staffordshire.

† Godwin de Præsulibus. Exon.

‡ Plot's Hist. Staff. p. 275.

not escape the oppression which had so much affected him, at the university ; for, having refused to attend divine service in the parish church, he was thrown into prison in 1572. Having effected his discharge soon after, he became more ardent than ever, in supporting his faith, publicly declaring that he deemed it criminal in Catholics to frequent or even to enter a Protestant church. In consequence of this violent conduct the enmity of the clergy was particularly directed against him, so that he found it necessary to withdraw himself into obscurity. But notwithstanding this, when the Jesuits Campian and Parsons came over to England, he set out for London, found them out, and contributed liberally to their support. This conduct having again attracted notice, he thought it prudent to retire to France in 1582, where he advocated the cause of the beautiful, but unfortunate, Mary queen of Scots. After the death of that princess he proceeded to Madrid to claim the protection of Philip II ; but, upon the defeat of the Spanish Armada left Spain, and accompanied the duke of Feria to Milan. That Nobleman, who was for some time resident in England, had married an English woman by birth ; and in consequence was a warm patron of the English in Spain. Mr. Fitzherbert remained at Milan for a considerable period, after which he set out to Rome, where he devoted himself entirely to literature. In 1614, he became a member of the society of Jesus, and much about the same time was ordained priest. After this event he departed for Flanders, and presided over the mission at Brussels for two years. From that situation he was recalled to fill the station of governor or rector of the English college at Rome, for which distinguished mark of favour he was solely indebted to the abilities and judicious conduct he had displayed at Brussels. This office he enjoyed till his death in 1640, being then in the eighty-eighth year of his age and the twenty second of his rectorship.

Mr. Fitzherbert wrote a variety of works upon different subjects ; chiefly, however, such as were connected with religious matters.

matters. The most famed amongst them were his Treatise concerning Policy and Religion, and another intituled, "*An sit utilitas in scelere vel de infelicitate Principis Machiavellani.*" Both these pieces bear strong indications of a keen judgment, a generous mind, and extensive reading. In the former, he is frequently successful, in his attempts to disprove the principles laid down by the celebrated Machiavel; but his language is unfortunately obscure and perplexed, as well as his method. These circumstances, however, ought rather perhaps to be charged to the barbarous taste of his age, than stated as a peculiar defect in his own capacity for composition.*

To the north of the town stands *Castle Church* an ancient building surrounded by very picturesque scenery. The architecture of this edifice is various. The north side, which is older than any other part of it, is distinguished by a plain arch of a circular form, and a round-headed window. Its southern division has been lately rebuilt of brick. The tower, which is somewhat more modern, is ornamented on the west side with a coat of arms, the same as on the lady Stafford's mantle exhibited in Plate XXII of Shaw's history.

The fortification or encampment of *Billington* or *Bilinton Bury*, is placed on a high hill about three miles to the west of Stafford. Its area which includes several acres is circular, and surrounded on some parts with one, and on others by two deep ditches. From this camp there is an extensive and beautiful prospect of the surrounding country. Mr. Pennant, we have already mentioned, considers this fortification as having been originally a British post, subsequently occupied by the Saxons whose stations are generally distinguished by the addition of Borough, Bury, and Berry.†

Several miles south east from Billington in the neighbourhood of Penkridge stands the village of *Congreve*, which had the honour of giving birth to the late celebrated Dr. Hurd, bishop of Worcester. He was the son of a respectable farmer, and received

* Gent. Biog. Dict.

† Pennant's Journey, p. 104—5.

received the rudiments of his education at Market Bosworth in the county of Leicester, under the tuition of Anthony Blackwall, distinguished in the religious world as the editor of the *Sacred Classics*. Leaving his academy he was next entrusted to the care of the Rev. William Budworth of Breedwood, of whose kindness the Doctor always retained the most grateful remembrance. From hence he removed to Emanuel college Cambridge, where he formed an intimate friendship with Dr. Warburton, Mr. Mason, and several other characters of great celebrity, and continued to prosecute his studies with uncommon assiduity, till a vacancy having taken place in the rectory of Thurstaston, he was presented to that living by the fellows of the college. Not long after this event he commenced author by the publication of an *English Commentary and Notes, upon Horace's epistle to the Pisces*. The commentary was distinguished by a new consideration of the subject, and a fancied discovery of a systematic plan, which he supposed to have been adopted by the Roman poet. He was dissatisfied with the opinion entertained by Scaliger and Heinsius, that the *Ars Poetica* was a collection, though not a system, of criticism on poetry in general. His dissatisfaction resulted from an idea, that the purpose of the author was, neither to abridge the Greek critics, nor to amuse himself with composing a short critical system for the general use of poets, but simply to criticise the Roman drama. To the views of Dr. Hurd on this subject the praise of ingenuity must undoubtedly be allowed; but we cannot subscribe to their truth and accuracy. Extensive erudition and refined taste are conspicuously displayed in the work, as well as a complete acquaintance with polite literature. In 1753 an edition of Horace appeared with notes and a commentary on the fine epistle to Augustus, which were no less honourable to the Doctor's talents. These were accompanied by two critical dissertations, one on the province of dramatic poetry, and the other on poetical imitation. The next publication by Dr. Hurd was an *Essay on the Delicacy of*

Friendship, which, while it gave the most heartfelt satisfaction to his friend Warburton, severely hurt the feelings of Dr. Jortin. This circumstance Dr. Hurd afterwards so much regretted, that he expressed the most earnest wish that the essay should be suppressed. A Dissertation on the Marks of Imitation came out in 1758, and in the same year also, Remarks on Hume's Essay on the Natural History of Religion. The greater portion of this latter work was from the pen of Dr. Warburton. It was issued forth to the public in an anonymous form; but it was soon discovered that Dr. Hurd had some share in it; and, in consequence, he received a severe reprimand from the Scottish philosopher, who declared, with justice, that it was "written with all the illiberal petulance, arrogance, and scurrility, which distinguished the Warburtonian school."

After the lapse of a year, Dr. Hurd published his Moral and Political Dialogues, which purported to be the substance of different conversations between several eminent characters of the last and present century, arranged and digested by the parties themselves, and then first published from the original MSS. A second edition of these Dialogues appeared in 1764, when the Doctor's motives for concealing their real origin having ceased, he declared himself the author of them in a preface on the manner of writing dialogue. This work gained him extensive fame; and operated, in no small degree, to promote his advancement in the church. The king, it is said, pointing to one of them, after he had been elevated to a bishopric, declared that it was the cause of his preferment to so dignified a station.

Three years previous to the publication of this second edition, Dr. Hurd was presented by Lord Northington to the sinecure rectory of Folkstone, and soon after received the archdeaconry of Gloster from his friend Warburton. In 1772 he published a volume of sermons, which he dedicated to Lord Mansfield, who returned the compliment by exerting his influence, to procure him the appointment of preceptor to the prince

prince of Wales and the duke of York. Shortly after this event he appeared in a new character, viz. as editor of select works of Abraham Cowley. That publication does him much less credit than most of his other productions; for we can assert with confidence that many poems replete with marks of taste and genius are omitted, to make room for some of the poet's most paltry and trifling effusions. In the year 1775 the bishopric of Lichfield and Coventry, with that of Bangor, being offered by his Majesty to his acceptance, he chose the former. From this see he was translated to that of Worcester, in 1781, when the honourable Dr. Brownlow North was preferred to the bishopric of Winchester. This appointment he continued to hold till his death, which happened at Hartlebury palace on the 28th of May 1808, having declined the highest dignity of the church, the see of Canterbury, offered to him in 1783.

In whatever point of view Dr. Hurd is viewed, we perceive much to praise, and little to blame. His friendship for Warburton no doubt sometimes led him to write after the keen and arrogant manner of that celebrated character. In private life, however, he was free from violence in his animosities, while he was no less warm and constant in his friendships, than his great patron, whom many calumniated, and few loved, but whom all were forced to admire for his transcendent talents and extensive learning. Dr. Warburton having died in 1777, he left the settlement of his domestic affairs to Dr. Hurd, and likewise enjoined him protector to his wife, by a letter dated the 6th April 1776, and thus endorsed "To the Lord Bishop of Lichfield and Coventry, to be opened and delivered to him at my decease. W. G."

Besides the works already noticed, Dr. Hurd published a considerable number of well written and judicious sermons. In 1785 he brought forward an edition of all the works of Dr. Warburton, which he conceived it proper should meet the public eye, omitting, however, the *Essay on the Delicacy of*





OLD GATE HOUSE,
in the
Staffordshire

Friendship, in which it has been seen he had a considerable share. To this superb and valuable publication Dr. Hurd, for some reasons not yet exactly ascertained, prefixed no memoirs of his distinguished friend. The omission gave offence to Dr. Parr, and induced him to republish the essay above mentioned, in a work intituled "Tracts by Warburton and a Warburtonian," the dedication to which is not inferior to any paper in the whole compass of English controversy. The re-appearance of this work was highly resented by Dr. Hurd, who found himself under the necessity of answering it, and did so with much ability, but unhappily, without being successful in wholly extracting the venom of the attack, though he sufficiently exposed the pretensions of his opponent, to elevation of mind and purity of intention.*

At the distance of four miles, south-east from Stafford, in the angle formed by the junction of the Sow and the Trent, stands *Tirat Hall*, the seat of Thomas Clifford, Esq. The present edifice is a modern building erected about thirty years ago. It is constructed of brick in a plain style, and offers nothing remarkable; but in front of it stands a magnificent gateway, a motley pile of Gothic and Grecian architecture, embellished before with three series of columns Doric, Ionic, and Corinthian. Mr. Pennant says, that he at one time conceived this structure might be among the early productions of Inigo Jones: afterwards, however, he abandoned that opinion, having found that it was built by Sir Walter Aston Knight, who died in 1589, and consequently at a time when Inigo was too young for such an undertaking. The antient house stood behind this gateway, and was a most venerable building, having its first floor constructed of stone, and the higher ones of wood and plaster. Some remains of that building can still be seen at the back of the gateway. It was erected by Sir Edward Aston, in the early part of the reign of Henry the eighth, and will be found represented in the thirty-eighth plate of Dr. Plot's history

* Imperial County Register.

tory of the county, where it is observed, that it was remarkable as containing a vast number of windows, and yet not one of them alike. On the sill of the windows was this inscription :

“ WILLIAM YATES MADE THIS HOUSE, MDLV.

The manor here at the Conquest was in the possession of Roger earl of Montgomery, from whom it was held by Henry de Ferrers. In the reign of Henry the second, we find it had become the property of the family of Wastineys, or de Gastenoyes, one Paganus de Gastenoyes being then lord of it. This family held it for several generations, till Rose, the daughter of the last, and widow of Sir John Gastenoyes Knight, sold it to the Littletons, in the reign of Henry the fourth, though not before she had consulted the learned, whether she could do it with safety to her soul. Joan daughter to Sir William Littleton, who died in 1507, carried it by marriage to Sir John Aston, Knight of the Bath. Sir Walter Aston, one of his descendants, was a great patron of the poet Drayton, who pays the following tribute to the family in his *Polyolbion*.*

“ The Trent by Tixal graced the Aston's ancient seat,
Which oft the muse hath found her safe and sweet retreat;
The noble owners now of which beloved place,
Good fortune them and theirs with honor'd titles grace.
May heav'n still bless that house, still happy flood you see,
Yourselves more graced by it, than it by you can be ;
Whose bounty still my muse so freely shall confess,
As when she shall want words, her sighs shall it express.”†

Sir Walter Aston married Getrude, the sister of Mr. Sadler of Sandon, in the county of Hertford ; and was, not long after that event, created a baron of the United kingdoms by the title

* Michael Drayton, says Mr. Pennant, owed much to this gentleman, Sir Walter Aston. He was one of his esquires when created a knight of the Bath.

Pennant's Journey, p. 96.

† *Polyolbion*, Song XII.

title of baron Porfar. His second son Walter, second Lord Aston, married Mary daughter of Richard Weston, earl of Portland, lord Treasurer of England, and was succeeded by his son and grandson, both named after himself, and a great grandson James, who died in 1705, leaving a son Walter and two daughters, one of whom, the younger, married the Hon. Thomas Clifford, who thereby became proprietor of the estate.

This house gave birth to Edward Wittenhall, bishop of Cork.

Fixat Heath immediately adjoining the park, which surrounds the mansion-house, is distinguished by two remarkable mounds or tumuli, the one named the King's, and the other the Queen's Low. Nothing, however, is known respecting the reason of their being so denominated, nor can it even be conjectured on what occasion they have been constructed. Two urns were found near them, in the beginning of last century, which were supposed to be of Roman workmanship.

This heath was the scene of one of the most barbarous assassinations, which disgrace the records of history, and mark the vindictive character of the feudal times. A family emulation which subsisted for some generations, between the Stanleys of Pipe, and the Chetwynds of Ingestre, was the occasion of this catastrophe. Sir Humphrey Stanley was one of the knights of the body to king Henry the seventh, and Sir William one of his gentleman ushers. The former according to report, jealous of the preferment of his rival, resolved to dispatch him, and with that view inveigled him from his house, by a counterfeit letter, containing an invitation to the residence of one of his neighbours. Sir William, without suspicion of the artifice, set out to cross the heath unattended, but no sooner approached the middle of it, than he was attacked by twenty armed men, and dispatched in the presence of Sir Humphrey, who was passing at the same time with his train, under pretence of hunting, though in reality with the view of glutting himself with the sight of the blood he had so long coveted.

"It does not appear," says Mr. Pennant, "that justice ever overtook the assassin, though the widow of Sir William invoked it. Probably Sir Humphrey had no fortune worthy of confiscation."

Ingestre Hall is situated to the north west of Tixal, and nearly at the same distance as that mansion from the town of Stafford. It is a respectable old edifice, standing on the declivity of a gentle eminence. Behind it, the hill is covered with a profusion of trees, among which rise numerous ancient oaks of immense size. This wood forms part of the surrounding pleasure grounds, throughout which extends a great variety of noble walks, some of which terminate on the skirts of the wood, while others penetrate a considerable way beneath its umbrageous shade. The house is built according to the style of architecture prevalent in the reign of queen Elizabeth. At each end is an arched projection or bow, in which appear four large windows, two and two separated by a sort of flat square column. These bows are built of stone; but the central portion of the edifice is constructed of brick, and is ornamented with a number of large windows. The entrance is under a very handsome tower, which likewise projects from the rest of the edifice, and is surmounted by an elegant ballustrade, similar to that which passes along the whole length of the front, several feet beneath this elevation. Rising from a base within this ballustrade, is a small erection bearing a strong resemblance to an observatory, for which purpose it may have been used by its ancient proprietors. Over the fire place in the great hall, hangs an excellent picture of Walter Chetwynd Esq. in a great wig, and crossed by a rich sash. This house has lately undergone considerable alteration, but not to such an extent as to obliterate the general features of the Elizabethan style. The north front has, indeed, been rebuilt after the same manner.

In the reign of Henry the second, the manor of *Ingestre* was in the possession of Eudo de Mutton. By the marriage of Isabel

Robert daughter of Philip de Mutton, with Sir John Chetwynd it passed into the noble family of that name, in the reign of Edward the third. His descendants were created barons of Ingestre and Talbot; and in 1784 John Chetwynd Talbot, who had previously succeeded his uncle William in the barony, was raised to the dignity of an Earl of the United Kingdom by the style and title of earl Talbot of Ingestre.

The church at this place is a very neat edifice, and finely stuccoed. It was built by Walter Chetwynd, Esq. of Ingestre, in the room of a more ancient one which had nearly fallen to ruins. For this purpose, Dr. Plot says, he generously petitioned the most Rev. father in God Gilbert archbishop of Canterbury, whereupon that prelate, by a deed dated in 1672, commissioned Sir Edward Bagot of Blithfield, Baronet, William Chetwynd of Rugeley, Esq. Richard Harrison, B. D. and canon of Lichfield, and William Jennings, clerk, Rector of church Byton, (church Eadon) all of the county of Stafford, to survey this church, and report to him, upon its state and condition. Accordingly these commissioners, having examined within and without, declared that they were of opinion it ought to be demolished, and that the spot proposed for building the new one was much more convenient for the inhabitants, than the site upon which it then stood. In consequence of this declaration the archbishop granted a power to the said Mr. Chetwynd, to erect his proposed new church, and to use the materials of the old one to assist him in that object. The foundation of this church was accordingly laid in the year 1673; when a variety of coins of that year were deposited in holes, cut for that purpose in the corners of the steeple. The appearance of this chapel is remarkably neat and uniform. It is built of freestone, and adorned at the west end by a very handsome tower, the top of which is ornamented, with a fine balustrade with flower pots at each corner. The chancel is paved with black and white marble; and on the windows, in this part of the church, are paintings on glass, of the arms of Chetwynd, On the
M m m 2 ceilings

ceilings are the same in fretwork, and the sidewalls exhibit many fine funeral monuments of that family, curiously carved in white marble. The nave or body of the church is separated from the chancel with an elegant skreen of Flanders oak, ornamented with the king's arms and a great variety of other grotesque embellishments. At the south corner stands the pulpit, made of the same wood adorned in like manner with carved work, and iron work curiously painted and gilt. The seats are likewise of Flanders oak, and all equally elegant. Near the entrance on the left hand is placed a curious font of solid white marble; and over the same on the outside is a small table also of white marble with this inscription :*

Deo. opt. Max.
 Templum Hoc
 A fundamentis extractum
 WALTERUS CHETWYND
 (WALT. FIL. WALT. EQU. AUR. NEPOS)
 L. M.,
 D. D. D.
 Anno Æræ Christianæ
 1676.

At

* The following curious account, of the consecration of this church, is given by Dr. Plot. "The church being thus finished at the sole charge of the said Walter Chetwynd in August An. 1677, it was solemnly consecrated by the right Reverend father in God Thomas lord bishop of Coventry and Lichfield; the dean of Lichfield preaching the sermon; and some others of the most eminent clergy reading the prayers, baptizing a child, churching a woman, joyning a couple in matrimony, and burying another; all which offices were also there performed the same day, the pious and generous founder and patron offering upon the altar the tithes of Hopton, a village hard by, to the value of fifty pounds per annum, as an addition to the rectory for ever; presenting the bishop and dean at the same time, each with a piece of plate double gilt, as a grateful acknowledgement of the service; and entertaining nobility, clergy, and gentry, both men and women of the whole country, which came in that day, to see the solemnity performed, with a most splendid dinner at his house near adjoining, which, together with the

new

~~at Hopton Heath~~, a short way to the south west of Ingestrie, a severe action was fought between the king's forces, under the earl of Northampton, and the Parliamentary army commanded by Sir John Gell and Sir William Brereton. The earl of Northampton had purposed the relief of Lichfield: but that town having been compelled to surrender before his troops could arrive, he determined to march upon Stafford, which had been immediately after invested by a detachment of the victorious republicans. Upon the approach of the Royalists, Sir John Gell, who commanded this force, retired with the view of forming a junction with Sir William Brereton, who was collecting his troops with the same intention. This point being effected, both Generals retraced their steps towards Stafford, and encamped at this place, which lies three miles to the north east of the town. The earl of Northampton immediately led his forces against them; and, notwithstanding their great superiority in numbers, attacked them with incredible impetuosity. A long and obstinate contest took place, in which, after performing prodigies of valour, the Earl's horse having been shot under him, he was surrounded and slain. Notwithstanding thus unfortunate, the royalists continued the battle, and according to their own account ultimately gained a decided victory. The parliamentary army, on the other hand, asserted that though defeated at first they were in the end successful; and, if success is to be estimated by its consequences, they certainly had the best of the day.

The following are very different accounts of this engagement:

Saturday March 25.

"There hath been a more certain information given of the

M m m 3

battell

new church, are both here represented, where all-things were carried with a sobriety and gravity suitable to the occasion, concluding the day with hearty prayers for the prosperity of the church; and a universal applause of the piety and generosity, of the noble founder; and from the whole manage of the work from the foundation to the end."

Plot's Staff. p. 197.

battell near Stafford than was certified, the last day, which is to this effect. That Sir John Gell, advancing towards that town with his forces from Litchfield, the earl of Northampton with his forces fell upon his arreare, within four miles of Stafford, and after some combat betwixt the Parliament forces and them, there was about a thousand more of the kings forces came unto their assistance, which caused a very hot skirmish for sometime, after which Sir William Brereton came in with 1500 horse, by which means the kings forces were put to the worst, the earl of Northampton slain, and one of his sonnes wounded and taken prisoners with many others of good quality. After which they were forced to retreat into the town of Stafford for safety. But it is further informed that before the coming of the Cheshire forces, the kings forces took four drakes, and about forty prisoners from the parliaments forces, and it is said Mr. Hastings is mortally wounded, and that the cavaliers have desired the earl of Northampton's body, to bury it, but an answer was returned that if they would return the four drakes and the 40 prisoners they have taken, they should have him."

Sir William Brereton writes thus relative to this action :

"Upon the 12th of March, being the Sabbath day, I march from Newcastle to Stone, and soe to Sand, and joyned with Sir John Gells forces neare unto Salt Heath, about two o'clock in the afternoon. Our forces were much disproportionable to the enemies, who did very far exceed us in horse ; whereof there were two regiments brought down by the earl of Northampton. One was his own regiment, the other was the prince his regiment. There were joyned thereunto the forces of Colonel Hastings, who is very strong in horse. And the Shropshire horse and dragoons which was a great addition to their strength. These came on with great resolution and boldness and in very good order. Some say there were six score, other judge there were 200 in front, when they came up and charged our horse. Some report there were 2500 horse of theirs, whereas we had not

400 horse at the most whereof I brought two troops. And I believe there were about five companies of dragoons, whereof I brought three, some of them did extraordinary good service. There were near 100 of the dragoons slaine in the place where the dragoons skirmished, and I cannot discern that we lost more than two or three. And yet they fought so long and so fiercely, untill all their powder and bullet was spent. Afterwards they joyned and fell to it pell mell, one upon another with the stocks of the muskets. These were Captaine Brom-halls who behaved themselves well at Bramford, and also at Middlewich upon Monday March, 13. This was a great disadvantage unto us, that both our horse and foote were unhappily disposed of and divided into small bodyes, at such time as the enemy charged us, which was the occasion that the great part of our horse were disordered, and routed, and yet very few of them slaine.

"I doe not believe that all our foot there present could make five hundred men. Against which the enemies horse were encouraged to make a most desperate attempt which did produce and occasion their own destruction. Herein the wisdom and goodness of Divine providence is to be taken notice of, and acknowledged that the disordering and dispersing the greatest part of our horse, to charge furiously upon our foot, who by the discharge of their first vollies of shott did performe mightie great execution; the earle of Northampton was then dismounted, and after slain; but I cannot perceive he was known before he was dead, pillaged and stripped, when though it was in the night, I viewed his body, lyeing naked upon the ground and did believe him to be the generall, the earl of Northampton; of whom I cannot perceive there was any more care or respect, either of his person, when he was wounded and before he was dead, or of his body when he lay upon the field, than of the meanest souldier in either army. But notwithstanding our foote, through God's blessing, were so successful (many of them being inexpert, having never formerly

been upon service,) did mightie execution upon the enemy, who were thereby rather enraged than discouraged from making a second as desperate an assault, which was equally if not more fatal unto them, who as wee have been informed out of some letters and acknowledgements of some of their parte, confess they lost near three score of their most prime and eminent commanders. Among which there was the Major of the prince his regiment, who is exceedingly lamented amongst them. It is reported also amongst them that Capt. Middleton, Capt. Baker, Capt. Leeming, Capt. Cressit, Capt. Bagott, Capt. Biddulph, of Biddulph, a recusant in Staffordshire, are all slaine. And Mr. Spencer Lucee, Sir Thomas Lucee's sonne and heire, who carried the kings or the prince's colours, which were also taken and himself slain. Soe were the colours of the duke of York taken and his cornett slaine; Colonel Stanhope himself wounded, and his cornette slain and colours taken. Soe were divers other colours upon the enemies parte, but not any officer or commander, who I can heare of slaine upon our parte. Some of the inhabitants of the countrey report that there were nearly 600 dead bodies carried away from the field the next morning, whereof I am confident there were not thirty of our men. I cannot perceive there are six wanting of my two troopes of horse, and three companies of dragooners. In the success of this battle, the Lord was pleased much to shew himself to be Lord of Hosts and God of Victory, for when the day was theirs and the field wonne, he was pleased mightilie to interpose for the rescue and deliverance of those that trusted in him. And as my Lord General said concerning Keinton battle, soe may it be said of this, that there was much of God and nothing of man, that did contribute to this victory. To him I desire the whole glory may be ascribed and that this may be a further encouragement to trust in him, and an engagement to adhere unto his cause as well in the midst of dangers and streights, as when they are more remote. To this end I beseech you assist with your prayers those who often
stand

stand in need thereof, and believe that there is none that doth more earnestly pray for and desire the increase of all comfort and happiness, then

"Your most faithful servant

"Wm. Brereton."*

Beacon Hill, situated between Hopton Heath and the town of Stafford, is distinguished by a vast collection of rocks on its summit. The sides of this eminence are covered with grass, and are all of very steep ascent. It has, as its name imports, been formerly the site of a signal post for communicating alarm to the country around, in the event of hostile invasion or internal commotion. Upon St. Amon's heath, under this hill, a smart action was fought between a party of Royalists, and a detachment of the parliamentary troops in 1643.†

Coton Clanford, a small village situated about three miles west from Stafford, gave birth to William Wollaston, a distinguished philosophical writer, at the commencement of the eighteenth century. He was descended from an ancient family in this county, and first drew breath on the 26th of March 1659. About the year 1674 he was admitted a pensioner of Sidney-Sussex college Cambridge, having previously acquired the rudiments of his education at a private school. At college he continued till the year 1681, when he left it, not a little disappointed that he had failed in obtaining a fellowship, a situation which his abilities and knowledge seem to have entitled him to fill. Before quitting it, however, he took both degrees in arts, with considerable applause, and entered into Deacon's orders. Soon after leaving the University, he engaged himself as assistant to the chief Master of Birmingham school, and in a short time became lecturer at a chapel in the neighbourhood of that town. At the close of four years, having been chosen second master of the school, he took priest's orders, as according to the charter of its foundation, the masters, of whom there were three, were bound to take those orders, although forbidden to accept

* Shaw's Staff. Vol. I. p. 54.

† Gough's Camden, Vol. II. p. 510.

cept any ecclesiastical preferment. In this station Mr. Wollaston remained till August 1688, when the death of a rich relative gave him the possession of a very large estate. This circumstance induced him to remove to London, where, the year following, he married Miss Catharine Charlton, a citizen's daughter, who lived till the year 1720, after having borne eleven children to him, four of whom died in his life time. After having fixed his residence in London, he applied himself closely to his studies, and passed his life in the utmost retirement, and with the greatest regularity. He seldom extended his excursion beyond the bounds of the metropolis, and is said never to have slept one night from his own residence in Charter-house square, for thirty years previous to his death. He regarded solid and real contentment, as more just grounds of happiness than show and grandeur, and was so little ambitious of power and dignity, that he refused one of the highest preferments in the church when offered to his acceptance. In the learned languages he was highly skilled, as well as in philology, criticism, mathematics, philosophy, history, antiquities, and the like. The love of truth and reason made him a friend to freedom of thinking, and, as far as the world would bear it, to freedom also. He died in October 1724 of a complication of disorders, which had affected him for several years before, and which were brought to a crisis by the accident of breaking his arm. His remains were interred at Great Finborough in Suffolk, (one of his estates, and afterwards the principal residence of his son,) in a grave immediately by the side of his deceased wife, as appears from the inscription on their common monument, which was composed by himself.

Mr. Wollaston published a variety of works, distinguished by the display of powerful abilities and great erudition. His principal treatise intituled, *The Religion of Nature Delineated*, met with so great a demand immediately after its publication, that more than ten thousand copies were sold in a few years.

years.* This book exposed him to the censure of some zealous Christians, in consequence of his urging truth, reason, and virtue, as indispensable obligations, and that without making any mention of revealed religion, or even so much as throwing out the smallest hint in its favour. It has even drawn upon him the suspicion of being an infidel; and the great lord Bolingbroke imagines Dr. Clark to have had him in view, when he described his fourth sort of Deists. Wollaston held, and had asserted, the being and attribute's of God, natural and moral, a providence, general and particular, the obligations of morality, the immateriality and immortality of the soul; a future state; all of which opinions Dr. Clark's fourth sort of Deists held and asserted. But whether Wollaston, like them, rejected all above this in the system of revelation cannot be easily determined; though, at the same time, neither can the contrary be proved, because it was not essential to the design of Mr. Wollaston's work, to meddle with revealed religion. Lord Bolingbroke himself considered it as a system of Theism, as it certainly is, whether its author were a Christian or not. That nobleman calls it "strange theism, as dogmatical and absurd as artificial theology," and spends several pages to prove his affirmation. He allows the writer, however, to have been "a man of parts, of learning, a philosopher, and a geometrician." It is written with a degree of elegance, far superior to the style of most English writers, and may justly be regarded as one of the best and most classical works in the English language.

The personal character of Mr. Wollaston, was that of a worthy and humane man in every respect, but he is likewise said to have been somewhat irascible and fiery in his temper.†

RONTON.

* Dr. John Clark late dean of Salisbury, informs us, in an advertisement prefixed to his edition of Mr. Wollaston's works, that this book was held in particular esteem by her late Majesty queen Caroline, at whose command he translated the notes into English, expressly for her own use.

† Gent. Biog. Dict.

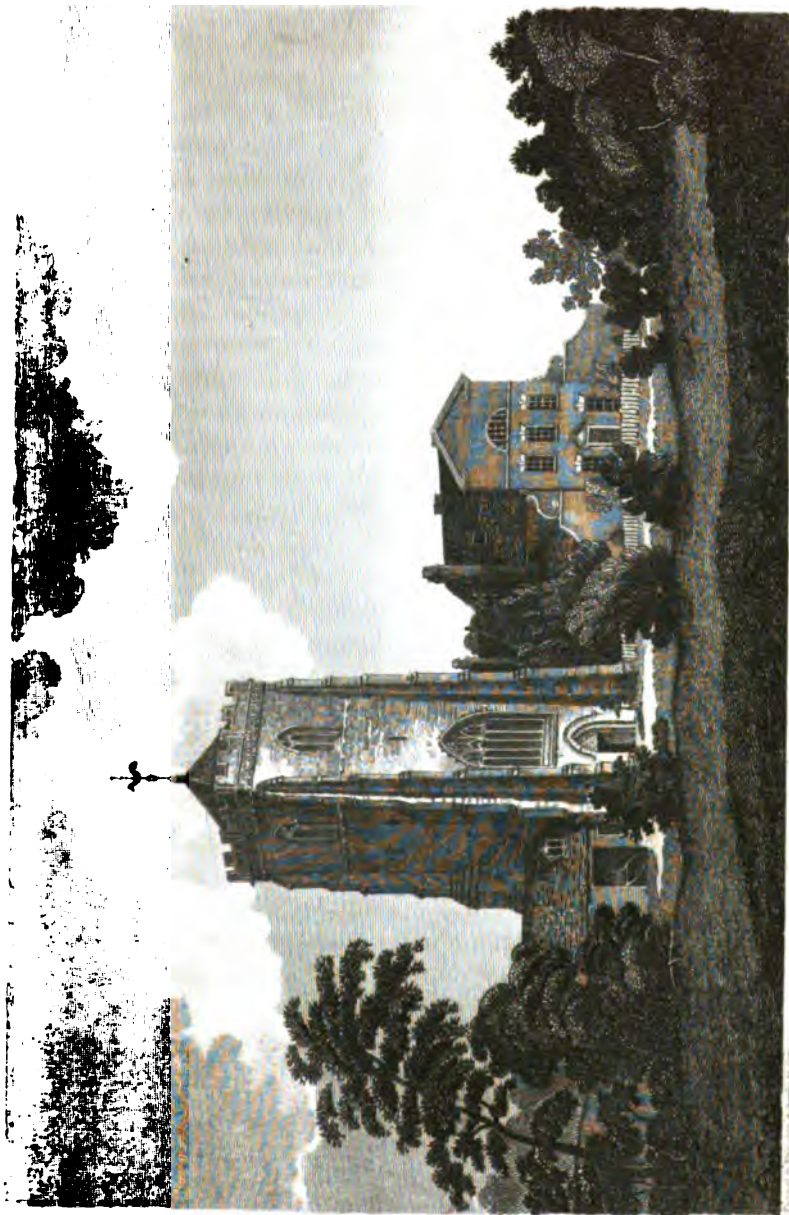
RONTON.

The village and parish of *Ronton* lie about two miles to the west of *Coton Clanford*, and three miles south east from *Eccleshal*. It is chiefly remarkable for its ancient abbey or priory, called *Ronton alias De Sartis*, or *Resare* abbey, which was founded by *Robert Fitz-Noel* in the reign of *Henry the second*. The religious of this house were canons regular of the order of *St. Augustine*. Shortly after its establishment, it was made a cell to the abbey of *Hughman*, in the county of *Salop*, by the founder himself. At the dissolution in the time of *Henry the eighth*, the revenue of this house was valued at 90*l.* per annum.

Considerable remains of the monastery are still standing. They consist principally of a lofty well built tower; and the outer walls of the church which are extremely low, together with a small portion of the cloisters. The south garden front of the house is by far more ancient than the western one.

Ellenhall, which lies to the north west of *Ronton*, is remarkable as being the seat of the noble family of the *Noels*, from whom are descended the *Noels* of *Hilcote* in this county, as also those of *Rinkby Malory* in *Leicestershire*, and of *Brook* in *Rutlandshire*. *Edward*, one of the descendants of this family, was raised to the honours of the peerage by *James the first*, under the title of lord *Noel of Ridlington*; *Charles the first* created him Viscount *Campden*, in consequence of the failure of issue male, in the person of *Baptist Hicks*, lord *Hicks*, and *Campden*, whose eldest daughter and coheir *Julian* he had married. The grandson of this Nobleman received the dignity of earl *Gainsborough* from *Charles the second*, after his restoration.

Dr. Plot, in his *Natural History of the County*, mentions the trunk of an old oak, of such vast size, that his man and he



RANTON ABBEY,
Staffordshire.



on-homes of 10 hands high, standing on opposite sides, were totally unable to see each other.*

The large parish and village of *Chebsey* is situated to the north of *Ellenhal*. This manor was originally the property of the noble family of *Hastings*, from whom it passed to the *Staffords*, and from them to the *Harcourts*. In the church-yard there, stands a lofty stone of a pyramidical shape, resembling those at *Draycot* and *Leek*. The precise use of these stones is not very apparent. Many writers have regarded them, as the shafts of crosses, and this opinion for some time received the sanction of *Dr. Plot*. That gentleman, however, subsequently changed his sentiments upon this subject; and decided that they were Danish monuments, from their similarity to such erections, both in *Denmark* and *England*, as were confessedly of that description.

ECCLESHALL.

This market-town is pleasantly situated on the bank of a small stream that flows into the river *Sow*, at the distance of one hundred and forty eight miles from *London*, and five from the town of *Stone*. The appearance of this place is extremely neat, the houses being in general well built, and disposed with considerable regularity. According to the parliamentary returns of 1801, it contained 594 houses, and 3,487 inhabitants, viz. 1737 males, and 1,750 females, of which number 2,657 were returned as employed in agriculture, and 830 in different trades and manufactures. It has a weekly market, established by bishop *Dudent* about the year 1161. The market day is *Friday*, when there is a plentiful supply of all kinds of provisions. There are likewise four fairs during the year, principally for cattle, sheep, and saddle horses.

The manor here, which is of great extent, at the era of the *Conquest*, was the property of the bishops of *Lichfield*. How long

* *Plot's Nat. Hist. Staff.* p. 219.

long it continued in their possession, or what changes it underwent, are not known ; but in the year 1650 Camden tells us, it was sold for the sum of 14,324*l*.

Eccleshall is distinguished principally for its castle, which was founded at a very early period, but by whom history does not inform us. About the year 1200, however, we find bishop Muschamp empowered by a licence from king John, "to make a park here, and embattle the castle," so that some edifice answering the description of a castellated mansion must have existed here, at least some years prior to this period.*

In 1310, this castle was completely rebuilt by Walter de Langton, bishop of Lichfield, and lord high Treasurer of England, who established it as the principal palace of the bishops of Lichfield. His successors, however, having other palaces in this county at Heywood, Breewood, Beaudesert, &c. besides Lichfield House in the Strand London, do not appear to have occupied it much till the year 1695, when the whole south front of it having been renewed by bishop Lloyd, it afterwards became their constant residence, and continues to be such at the present day.

At the time of the civil wars, between the house of Stewart and the Parliament, this castle was originally garrisoned for the king, and stood a severe siege against the republican forces, but was ultimately compelled to surrender. So great was the damage it sustained during this attack, that it became wholly uninhabitable, till re-edified, as already mentioned, by bishop Lloyd. Bishop Hough afterwards planted the grove, which surrounds it, now converted into an elegant shrubbery. The late bishop, Dr. James Cornwallis, likewise contributed greatly both to the healthful situation and ornament of this residence, by draining all the grounds in its immediate neighbourhood.†

The

* Gough's Camden, Vol. II. p. 509.

† Leland, speaking of this castle says, "Eccleshall castle longing to the Bishop of Chester." This, however, we should presume to be a mistake, as

The church is not remarkable except as having been the place in which Bishop Halse concealed queen Margaret, when she fled hither from Muccleston. North east from the palace, at a few closes distant, is Byana, an ancient building, which was some years ago converted into a farm house. This edifice was long the residence of the family of the Bosviles who possessed the estate around it, as is evidenced by the inscriptions and achievements on their monuments in the church of Eccleshall. Charles Bosvile, Esq. the last male heir of this branch of the family, was sheriff of this county, and afterwards of Leicestershire, about the middle of the last century.

At *Peshall*, a considerable manor within the confines of this parish, was the ancient seat of Robert, son of Gilbert, younger son of R. de Corbeuil, a Norman who followed the fortunes of the Conqueror, and held the manor here, with its appurtenances from Robert de Stafford, by the service of a knight's fee. Hence his descendants, laying aside their own name, assumed that of de Peshall. One of them, John Peshall of Horsley, also in this parish, was created a Baronet by James the first, in the tenth year of his reign. In the course of the last century the manor passed to the earl of Breadalbane, by the marriage of that nobleman with the grand-daughter and heiress of the last Sir Thomas Peshall.

Not far from this seat is *Wotton*, where is a high paved way which Dr. Plot regarded as a Roman *via vicinalis*.

The *Bishop's Woods*, which are so called, because the property of the bishops of Lichfield, lie between two and three miles to the westward of Eccleshall. These woods contain no less than 1300 acres of excellent trees, among which is a considerable quantity of oak, and some fine underwood. The management of them is at once variable and systematic. Some portion of the trees are cut at fourteen years' growth, for crate rods and heads for the use of the potters, others at seven years' growth

we do not find it mentioned in any other record, as having ever been in the possession of that see.

Leland's Itin. Vol. VI. p. 36-7.

growth for rods only. The timber trees are left as nearly at an equal distance as can be, from 40 to 80 on an acre; for the soil being poor they are but slow of growth. Hence too, in their present condition, they are more valuable to the owners than they could be in any other; they are moreover beneficial to the public, both because they afford labour to many individuals during winter, and because without the supply derived from them to the potteries, the potters would find it difficult to obtain wood for the purpose of making crates to pack their ware in.

Broughton Hall, immediately adjoining to the northern boundary of this wood, is an ancient mansion surrounded with plantations, clumps, and shady spreading trees, particularly sycamores. This seat is the property of Sir Thomas Broughton. On the opposite side of the road from the house rises a very fine promising spring coppice of oak.

Blorcheath, situated on the confines of Shropshire at the distance of five miles to the west of Eccleshall, is distinguished as the scene of a furious combat between the troops of Henry the sixth, commanded by lord Audley and the adherents of the house of York, under the orders of Richard Neville, earl of Salisbury. The latter was on his march from Middleham castle at the head of five thousand men, in order to join Edward duke of York, then lying at Ludlow, under the pretence of settling the differences then subsisting between the houses of York and Lancaster, relative to the rightful succession to the throne. Margaret of Anjou, however, the spirited consort of Henry, fearing for her husband's personal safety and alarmed at the consequences of allowing these two leaders to unite their armies, directed lord Audley to intercept Salisbury on his march. That nobleman accordingly posted himself here with that view, at the head of ten thousand men, collected from Cheshire and Shropshire; whose chieftain were distinguished by silver swans, the badges of their young prince. But notwithstanding

withstanding their superiority in point of number and the advantage of choosing his position. The king's troops were completely defeated by the military skill and dexterity of the Earl, who feigning to fly, drew him from his commanding position, and having allowed the vanguard to pass a small river, which separated their camps, turned upon him before his army were enabled to form. The battle, however, was long and severely contested; many persons of rank and a great number of inferior condition having fallen on both sides. Lord Audley himself was among the slain, as were most of the Cheshire gentlemen, whose heroism had induced them unwarily to bear the brunt of the battle.*

Michael Drayton commemorates the slaughter of this day in the following lines of his *Polyolbion* :

“—————The Earl
 So hungry in revenge, there made a rav'nous spoil,
 There Dutton Dutton kills : a Done doth kill a Done :
 A Booth à Booth ; and Leigh by Leigh is overthrown ;
 A Venables against a Venables doth stand ;
 A Troutbeck fighteth with a Troutbeck hand to hand ;
 There Molineux doth make a Molineux to die ;
 And Egerton the strength of Egerton doth try.

A wooden cross was erected on the field of battle soon after the action, to mark the spot where lord Audley fell, which having been thrown down by a cow rubbing against it, the Lord of the manor ordered a stone pedestal, to be placed there with the cross upon it. The height of both together measures
 Vol. XIII. N n n about

* The earl of Salisbury did not long enjoy the success he had thus so nobly obtained, having been taken prisoner at the battle of Wakefield, in the year 1460, and soon after beheaded. His three sons all likewise fell in the field of honour. The eldest, Richard earl of Salisbury and Warwick, together with the third, John Marquis Montacute, were slain at the battle of Barnet in the year 1470. His second son, Sir Thomas Neville, met his fate in the same action with his father.

about three yards ; and on the eastern front of the pedestal appears the following inscription :

" ON THIS SPOT
WAS FOUGHT THE BATTLE OF
BLORE-HEATH
IN 1459.
LORD AUDLEY,
WHO COMMANDED FOR THE SIDE OF LANCASTER,
WAS DEFEATED AND SLAIN.
TO PERPETUATE THE MEMORY
OF THE ACTION AND THE PLACE,
THIS ANCIENT MONUMENT
WAS REPAIRED IN
1765,
AT THE CHARGE OF THE LORD OF THE MANOR.
CHARLES BOWTHBY SCRYMSEER."

The village of *Mucceston* is situated on a rising ground about a mile to the north of Bloreheath. Subsequent to the Conquest the manor here was held by Kenning, one of the Taynes. It afterwards passed to the family of the Morgans, of the west country, with whom it continued till the reign of Elizabeth, when it was purchased by Sir Thomas Offley, Knight, lord Mayor of London in the year 1556.

The church is an ancient edifice dedicated to St. Mary ; with a lofty square tower, from the top of which queen Margaret beheld the battle so fatal to her cause, which we have just described. The living is a rectory in the gift of the noble family of Talbot.

The parish of *Maer*, or *Mere*, lying to the north of Mucceston, derives its name from its comprehending an extensive lake, which forms the head of the river Tern, and flowing westward through the county of Salop, falls into the Severn about three miles below Shrewsbury. The manor here, together with that of Aston, immediately adjoining, was the joint property of William de Maer, and Robert Stafford. After the

the lapses of several centuries, one of the Staffords exchanged his share of Maer with Ralph, the son of John Macclesfield, whose descendants sold it to John lord Chetwynd so that it now forms part of the property of earl Talbot, of Ingestrie.

No spot perhaps in England is more prolific of Saxon antiquities than this parish. The fortress of *Bruff* or *Burgh* is a remarkable monument of this kind. It is composed of a double trench and rampire constructed chiefly of stone. The shape of this fortification is altogether irregular, yielding to the figure of the eminence on which it is placed, as is the usual mode in British and early Saxon works of the same kind. Two of the angles form a natural projection resembling a species of bastions. The entrance to this fort evidently appears to have been situated on the side next to the present road. The approach is very visible : it crept up the steep sides ; and dividing in two branches one took to the left and the other to the right. To whom this fortress belonged is uncertain ; but the general opinion is that it was constructed by Kenrid, king of Mercia, as a protection against the invasion of Osrid the licentious king of Northumberland ; whom Mr. Pennant calls " a despiser of Monks, and a corrupter of Nuns." That monarch, we are informed by Henry of Huntingdon, was slain in a battle fought in this neighbourhood. The words of the author are, *Osrid vero rex belli unfortunio juxta Mere pugnans interfectus est.* Who was his opponent in this disastrous field does not appear ; but Dr. Plot* supposed it must have been Kenrid, above-mentioned, and not his cousin who succeeded him. It is probable that the Mercian monarch bestowed upon his vanquished foe the usual funeral honours, and interred him and his officers with the respect due to their rank. Opposite to this fortress are the *Camp-hills*, so called probably from having been the situation of Osrid's camp, previous to his engagement with Kenrid. No vestiges of such a work, however, are now visible. Numerous tumuli or barrows, of different shapes, however, appear

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* Plot's Staffordshire, p. 409.

pear dispersed over the various hills and heaths, with which the neighbourhood abounds, and point out clearly that some great battle had been fought there. One of these barrows, called *Coplow*, particularly claims attention, by its uncommon extent. It is of considerable height, and of a conical form; and is doubtless the sepulchral monument of some great chieftain, most probably that of Osrid. The other smaller ones we may presume to be the burial places of those of his numerous followers who shared the same fate with himself.

At *Willowbridge*, a small village in this neighbourhood, is a medicinal spring which was originally discovered by lady Bromley. It was formerly celebrated for the great virtue of its waters, in curing a variety of distempers. Samuel Gilbert, a physician of the seventeenth century, wrote a pamphlet expressly recommending them; and, in consequence, this well was much frequented by persons from every part of the country.

Dr. Plot, speaking of these waters, says, that he counted no less than sixty springs all rising within the space of ten yards square. The water, according to him, carries with it the most rectified sulphur of any mineral spring in the county, not being as usual of a yellow colour, but clear as crystal, and only discovered to contain sulphur by chemical tests. The cures which it performed, whether by drinking it, or by using it as a bath, he represents as extraordinary, and seems to consider lady Bromley, as among the great benefactors of the human race, for having discovered its sanative properties.*

Throughout the whole of this district, the country was some few years ago full of commons and low hills, overrun with heaths, which served as a covering to a few black grouse. Latford pool between Eccleshall and Stafford, situated about a mile south from the road, having been neglected, had converted upwards of a hundred acres into an extensive swamp or morass. A considerable proportion of these lands has been lately drained, and some part of them promise to become excellent meadow

* Plot's Nat. Hist. Stafford, p. 102—3.

meadow land ; but in the immediate neighbourhood of Maer, in particular, the soil is so gravelly that it will be extremely difficult to bring it into a state of high cultivation or fertility. *

Swinerton, a neat village situated about four miles north from Ecclesball, was a royal residence in the time of the Saxons. Afterwards in the reign of Edward the first it was constituted a market by charter ; but this privilege has long since fallen into disuse.

The manor here, at the time of the Conquest, belonged to a person called Aslam, who held it from Robert de Stafford. That individual appears from Domesday to have possessed no fewer than eighty-one manors in this county alone. His descendants assumed the name of Swinerton, and many of them were persons distinguished both in the field and in the cabinet. Roger de Swinerton, in the reign of Edward the third, had the honour of being summoned to Parliament, and was soon after created a banneret. He it was who obtained the privilege of a market for this place, as also a free warren, and a fair. Edward the second first appointed him governor of Stafford, and afterwards of the important fortress of Harlech in Merionethshire. Having distinguished himself highly in these different services, he was appointed constable of the tower, and received an assignation out of the Exchequer, of one hundred and forty five pounds, thirteen shillings, and eight pence, per annum. In this family the manor continued till the reign of Henry the eighth, when it was carried into that of Fitzherbert, by the marriage of the youngest daughter of Humphry Swinerton, the last male heir, with William Fitzherbert of Norbury ; from whom the present proprietor is a lineal descendant.

The Mansion house in which Mr. Fitzherbert resides is situated near the church, on a gentle eminence, which commands

N n n 3

very

* Mr. Pennant informs us, that about a century ago the heath on these hills here was made use of to supply the place of hops ; a practice, he adds, continued to this day, in the Hebrides or Western Isles of Scotland.

Pennant's Journey, p. 65.

very extensive views, not only over a great portion of this county, but over Shropshire and Worcestershire. In this house, is a very fine full length picture of Sir John Fitzherbert, Knight. The School-house contains a remarkable colossal figure of our Saviour, sitting. He is represented as in the act of shewing the wound in his side, which he received on the cross, to his incredulous disciple Thomas, with the view of proving to him the fact of his resurrection. This statue was discovered buried at a little distance from its present situation, some few years ago, and is generally supposed to have been placed there in order to prevent its falling a sacrifice to the fanatical zeal of the reformers; who, in breaking down the images which filled the churches of our ancestors, too frequently destroyed some of the noblest monuments of human art.*

Swinerton Church has nothing remarkable, either in its architecture or interior decorations. There are, however, several monuments dispersed throughout it, among which is a plain altar tomb, supporting the recumbent figure of a knight cross-legged, after the manner of the knights Templars. Underneath appears the following laconic inscription :

"DOMINUS DE SWINNERTON ET
ELLEN UXOR EJUS."

BETLEY.

This town, situated almost on the confines of Shropshire, was formerly a place of considerable importance. It then possessed a privileged market; but has for many years been deprived of that distinction. The appearance of the houses here is uncommonly neat, and the town is further greatly ornamented by two very handsome seats, which occupy the grounds in its immediate neighbourhood. Thesee mansions are the property of Mr. Tollet and Mr. Fletcher, the former of whom is celebrated

* *Portraiture of Catholicism, Part I. § VIII. passim.*

ed for his many improvements in agriculture, and particularly for his treatment of the Marino sheep.

The remains of *Healy* or *Hayley Castle*, in this neighbourhood, are situated on a lofty rock about a mile to the south east. Camden tell us that the lands hereabout were given by Harvey lord Stafford, to Henry de Aldithlege or Awdlege, already mentioned, in the reign of king John. This Henry appears to have been the founder of the castle. He was descended from William de Bettelegh or Betley, who besides Audley left him considerable property in this vicinity. The Stanleys earls of Derby were the descendants of this family, who were created Barons of Audley. Both the estate and title, however, afterwards went to the Touchets, and that family still continues to enjoy them.*

Audley, a small village about two miles to the north, is distinguished, as having given name, as well as title, to the noble family of Audley. This manor according to Camden was conferred upon Henry de Aldethlege or Awdlege, by Theobald Verdun. Plot informs us, that traces of a very old castle could be discovered here in his time, which had either been built by the Betteleghs, whom Nicholas maintains to have been in possession of it before the Audleys or the Verduns, from whom he says they received it. All vestiges of this edifice are now lost.

CHESTERTON UNDER LINE.

At this place, previous to the Conquest, there seems to have been a town and fortress of very considerable consequence. By whom these, or either of them, were founded, is a question wholly involved in obscurity. The fact, however, of a castle and town existing here at an early period is, undoubted. Camden tells us, he saw their ruins and shattered walls, and Erdes-

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wick

* Plot's Nat. Hist. p. 445.

wick says, that he could perceive the walls had been of wonderful strength and thickness; but Dr. Plot could only discover a few traces of them, in the year 1680. In the reign of king John, the property of this place was vested in Randal earl of Chester, on whom it was bestowed by that monarch. It went to decay so early as the time of Henry the third, who having granted it to his younger son Edmund earl of Lancaster, he built another castle at a short distance from hence, and entirely neglected the more ancient one.

NEWCASTLE UNDER LINE.

This borough and market-town is situated on a branch of the river Trent, and derived its name and origin from the new fortress, built by earl Lancaster as abovementioned, in the centre of an extensive pool. Of this castle scarcely any vestiges can now be discovered; it having fallen to decay at least three centuries ago. Leland says, that in his time the whole edifice was destroyed, with the exception of one tower.*

The first charter of corporation, granted in favour of this town, is dated in the reign of Henry. This deed was afterwards confirmed by queen Elizabeth and Charles the second, with some additional privileges. In virtue of these charters the government of the town is now vested in a mayor, two justices, two bailiffs, and twenty four common council men, who possess the right of holding a court, for the recovery of debts under forty pounds.

Newcastle sends two members to Parliament, and has done so ever since the twenty seventh year of the reign of Edward the third. The right of election has several times been the subject of parliamentary investigation, during the two last centuries. The first time the question was thus agitated was in 1624, when the decision favoured ancient custom, which declared

clared that the free men residents did not forfeit their title to a vote, till a year and a day after they had left the town. In the subsequent contests, in 1705 and 1793, the discussion was confined to the question of residence for a year and a day, that they had actually ceased to reside in the town, and was decided against their claim. In the trial of the last petition by Thomas Fletcher, Esq. and Clement Kinnersley, Esq. against Sir Archibald Mac Donald and the honourable Leveson Gower, the sitting members, it appeared in evidence that a great part of this borough was the property of the Marquis of Stafford, whose influence directed the choice of the electors; that it was found customary for the burgesses to live ten, fifteen, and even twenty years in the houses, without payment of rent; and that the then members were brother and son in law of that nobleman. Upon the trial of this petition, the counsel for the petitioners stated the right of election to be vested in the mayor, bailiffs, and burgesses, or freemen, whose place of residence at the time of giving their votes was in the said borough; or who at such time have no place of residence elsewhere, and who have never been absent from the borough a year and a day, without interruption, since they were admitted to the freedom thereof, or whose families (if they were masters of families) have not been absent for the space of time aforesaid, without interruption, after the time of the admission of such burgesses or freemen, having families to the freedom of the said borough. The counsel for the sitting members maintained the right of election to be in the freemen residing in the borough of Newcastle, and not receiving alms or church bread; and that persons living a year and a day out of the borough lose their freedom.

The committee having considered these statements, and examined evidence, both written and oral, relative to the question at issue, determined that neither the view of the petitioner, nor of his opponent in the petition, coincided with fact; but declared their opinion, that the right of election was vested

" in

"in the freemen residing in the borough of Newcastle underline."

The situation of Newcastle is extremely pleasant, and the houses display considerable neatness of architecture, and uniformity of arrangement. The principal street in particular is spacious and well paved. This town formerly possessed four churches, of which only one now remains, having a lofty square embattled tower, containing a chime of eight bells. The others suffered demolition during the barons' wars, after which periods they were never rebuilt. Besides the established church, which is only a chapelry to Stoke, there are several meeting houses for Dissenters of different denominations.

The *Alms-houses*, twenty in number, were built and endowed by the Marquis of Stafford and lord Grenville for the assistance of twenty poor women inhabitants of the town. A monastery for black friars is said to have stood in its southern division; but no vestiges of this edifice can now be discovered.*

The clothing trade and a manufactory of hats constitute the chief employment of the inhabitants; and are consequently the principal sources of their wealth, independent of the potteries, which shall be described in a subsequent part of our work.

Here is an excellent market place situated in the centre of the principal street. The market day is on Monday, when all sorts of provisions are abundant. Every alternate week a great beast market is held.

An excellent device for the cure of shrews or scolding women has been frequently put in practice within the limits of this ancient borough; a bridle being fixed in the scold's mouth, which deprives her of the power of speech, she is led through the town, and exposed to public shame, till she promises amendment.

The immediate neighbourhood of Newcastle is distinguished in the sporting world, as containing a race course, which is not a little

* Leland's Itin. Vol. VII. 36.

a little dangerous, on account of the numerous unfilled coal pits by which it is surrounded. Plot informs us, in his *Natural History* of the county, that he saw a solid block of stone raised from a quarry here, which exhibited the petrified skull of a human being entire, most probably that of some malefactor who had been executed here; the spot where it was found being still called Gallows tree, in memory of its ancient appropriation.

According to the parliamentary returns of 1801, the population of this town in that year amounted to 4495 persons, viz. 2235 males, and 2260 females, of which number 635 were returned as employed in different branches of trade and manufacture, and three only in agriculture.

The neighbouring country boasts several ancient and respectable gentlemen's seats, besides a great variety of modern mansions, raised by the genius and energies of trade. Keel hall, in particular, deserves the attention of the antiquarian architect and topographer. This edifice is situated two miles in an easterly direction from the town, and stands in an extremely agreeable and fertile country. It is built in the same style of architecture as Tixal, viz. that in use about the time of queen Elizabeth. Dr. Plot has given a very excellent view of the west front of this house, executed by that excellent artist Michael Burghers.

The coal trade carried on in this district is very extensive. In order to facilitate the conveyance of that valuable article of fuel, a canal was some years ago cut by Sir Nigel Greasley, from some mines on his estate of Kimpersley, to the town. A branch of the Grand Trunk serves in the same manner to transport coal from Harecastle to any part of the county.

Proceeding down the river Trent, on its southern bank, the traveller arrives at the town of *Trentham*, which Dr. Plot informs us, Dr. Fulke of Cambridge regarded as the *Bremetonacis* mentioned in the tenth itinerary of Antoninus; but the correct-

ness of this opinion is extremely problematical, as no Roman remains have hitherto been discovered at this place. This village derives its name from the river Trent, and gives title to the Marquis of Stafford, whose noble seat here is one of the finest in the county. The house is of modern erection, and built after the model of the Queen's palace in St. James Park. One defect attends it, which is the proximity of the church yard to its entrance. The inclosures which surround this mansion are very extensive, and finely variegated by umbrageous foliage, and extensive sheets of water, formed by the river Trent, which passes through them. These lakes with their accompaniments of imperious shade, winding behind a swelling bill covered with trees which approach and hang over the margin of the water, have an effect truly magnificent and worthy of the noble owner.* The higher grounds command extensive views.

In this town there formerly stood a very ancient nunnery. The period of its foundation is uncertain; but, in the reign of king Ethelred, we find his sister, the celebrated St. Werbury, appointed abbess of it. This lady died in the year 683. From that time history is silent concerning it, till towards the close of the reign of Henry the first, when it is said to have been rebuilt or refounded by Randal, second earl of Chester, for canons of the order of St. Augustin. Mr. Erdeswicke indeed hazards a conjecture that it was actually refounded by Hugh Lupus, in the time of William Rufus, and subsequently only augmented by Randal; an opinion not entirely destitute of probability. After its renewal the priory was dedicated to the blessed Virgin Mary and All Saints. At the era of the dissolution it had seven Religious, and possessed endowments to the amount

* According to the author of the Topographer, the lakes here broke their banks about fifty years ago, and so stocked the lower division of the river with fish, that the very ditches and meadows, for several miles around, were comparatively filled with them.

amount of 19*l.* 3*s.* 2*d.* per annum. Subsequent to that event the site was granted by the king to Charles duke of Suffolk.*

In later times than the sera of its monastery, Trentham became remarkable by the large share it had in the will of the charitable lady Catherine Leveson, daughter of Alice duchess Dudley, who died in 1673; leaving several excellent endowments for support of poor widows and inhabitants in this and various other places. That lady was the wife of Sir Richard Leveson, upon whose death without issue his sister and coheir, carried the lordship by marriage to Sir Thomas Gower, whose descendants were elevated to a peerage, and continued to reside chiefly at this house.†

Pursuing the course of the river, about three miles below, we reach *Darlaston*. This village is situated in a valley on the south bank of the Trent, surrounded by fertile pasturage lands, and environed by hills which afford it an agreeable shelter, and add a pleasing picturesque charm to the scene.

At a short distance from the village, is a hill called *Bury Bank*, the summit of which is crowned with the ruins of an ancient castle, or entrenchment, of an oval form. The area of this work extends about 250 yards in diameter, and is defended by a trench and ramparts. The entrance is on the north-west, and on the south side appears a conical mount, resembling a tumulus environed by a ditch. Mr. Pennant imagines this mount to have been formed out of the ruins of some buildings, and to have constituted a sort of *Prætorium* to the occupier. Wulphere king of Mercia is supposed to have fixed his residence here from the year 656 to 675; an opinion which derives some support from its old name *Wlfercester*. This hill is a most delightful spot in summer, abounds with rabbits, and affords many pleasing prospects of the surrounding country.

The

* Tanner's Notitia.

† Sir John Leveson Gower, the fifth baronet, was created Baron Stettenham in Yorkshire, March 16, 1702, Viscount Trentham and Earl Gower, July 8th 1746, and Marquis of Stafford 1786.

The cop or low Dr. Plot considers as the sepulchre of the Mercian monarch; but this idea is doubted by Pennant.*

The ancient mansion of the *Astons*, called *Aston Hall*, formerly stood about three miles beneath Barlaston. It was a large and magnificent edifice built in the form of an half H, and stood in an extensive plot of ground surrounded by a broad and deep moat, filled with water, and having a stone bridge, with iron gates in its centre. This bridge led up an area to the front of the house, where the principal entrance was into the hall, a lofty and spacious room. On the outside of the moat were beautiful grass walks that sloped on all sides to the margin of the water. Delightful gardens, richly stored with a variety of fruits, stretched themselves to the north; to the south: "avenues of noble lyme trees spread their ample shades around the largest and finest bowling green imaginable; which, since the desertion of the respectable, has been converted into a place of public amusement to the neighbourhood. To the west extends a wilderness, the haunt of clamorous rooks, who have long fixed their habitation there, and enlivened the once charming but now melancholy scene with their annual young. Behind this, under the covert of a thick shade, as if in quest of undisturbed quietude for the relics of the dead, Sir James Simeon built a large Mausoleum for the interment of himself and family, who were Roman Catholics.†"

The manor here was originally the property of the Heveninghams of Suffolk. Walter, the last of the line, left two daughters; one of whom, the youngest, conveyed it by marriage to Sir James Simeon abovementioned. Of late years it became the property of Edward Weld, Esq. of Lulworth castle in Dorsetshire, as being the descendant of a daughter of the Simeon family.

On the opposite of the river, at the distance of about three miles, stands the village of *Burston*. It is chiefly remarkable

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* Plot's Nat. Hist. p. 407. Pennant's Journey, p. 67.

† Topographer, Vol. I. 118.

as being the site of an ancient chapel erected in memory of Rufin second son of Wulphere, who was murdered at this place by his father in consequence of his having embraced the Christian faith. This chapel, which was formerly much frequented by the pious, is now entirely demolished, though Mr. Erdeswick speaks of it as standing when he wrote his survey of the county.

Sandon. This village lies about half a mile to the east of *Barston*. Before the Conquest the manor here was the property of Algar earl of Mercia; but after that event it fell into the hands of the king, who bestowed it upon Hugh Lupus earl of Chester. From him it passed to William de Malbank or Nantwich, one of his barons. Adena, the great grand-daughter of this William, gave it to Warren de Verdon, whose daughter Alditha conveyed it to Sir William Stafford. Margaret, the daughter of one of the descendants of this latter gentleman, carried it by marriage to the family of Erdeswick, who possessed it till the reign of James the first. In his time it was sold to George Digby, one of the grooms of the stole, by George Erdeswick his half brother. Mr. Digby's daughter placed it by marriage in the possession of Charles Lord Gerard of Bromley, whose grand-daughter by matching William duke of Hamilton carried it into Hamilton family, by one of whom it was sold to Lord Harrowby, whose son, the present lord Harrowby, still continues to possess it.*

The mansion house is a most elegant building finely situated on the declivity of a considerable eminence, which commands a very noble and luxuriant prospect. It was built by lord Archibald, on the site of a more ancient large half timbered edifice, the residence of the Erdeswick family. This house

was

* Mr. Pennant informs us that a law suit relative to this place was the occasion of the fatal duel, in November 1712, between James duke of Hamilton, and lord Mohun, which terminated in the death of both combatants.

Pennant's Journey, p. 80.

was defended by strong walls and a deep moat, which last is still visible; and beyond it the sloping sides of the hill are covered with a profusion of young plantations, in the most promising condition. The church which stands on the summit of this hill, not far from the house, possesses nothing remarkable in its exterior architecture; but it contains a number of monuments some of which deserve particular notice. That in memory of Sampson Erdeswicke, the celebrated antiquary of the county, is by much the finest. It represents a colossal figure of himself in a recumbent posture, and dressed in a jacket with short skirts and spurs on his legs. Above, in two niches, appear his two wives kneeling; the one was Elizabeth Dikeswel, and the other Maria Neale widow, to Sir Everard Digby, whose son was the unfortunate victim of the gunpowder plot. The inscription on this monument is so extremely singular, that, though rather long, we cannot refuse it a place in this work.

“*Ricardus de Vernon Baro de Sibroc* 20 Willmi Conquestoris Pater harum familiar ‘*de Vernon Holgreve et Erdeswick* 1086.

Hoc sibi spe in Xpo resurgendi posuit *Sampson Erdeswick* Armiger. qui gen. recta serie ducit a Ruo de Vernon, barone de *Sibroc* tempore gui’ loqst.

Hujus filii et heres *Hugo de Verno* duxit filia et haerede *Rainaldi Ballioli* dm de *Erdeswick* et *Holgreve* dederunt filio *Mattheo* uyu’ filii inde dict’ fuit de *Holgreve*.

Vernon. Vernon—1 Vernon—Vernon. Ballioli—Vernon—1 Holgreve. Malbanc. Holgreve.

Ricardus filius junor *Mathaei* de *Holgreve* tertij cum pater illi *Erdeswik* dedisset nomen de *Erdeswik* sibi assumpsit reliquit et ex altera haerede *Guil. dni de Leighton Thomas*.—de *Erdeswik* genuit cujus pronepos *Thomas quartus*, accepit in uxore *Margareta* unica filia et heredem *Jacobi Stafford* de *Sandon* militis cujus proava fuit *AVda* una filiar et heredu *Warini* ultimi baronis de *Sibroi* proav. vero *Guil. Stafford* filius secund’ *Harvaei Bagod* ex *Meliceta* Baronissae *Staffordiae* quae fuit proneptis *Roberti* primi baronis *Staffordiae* qui *Anglia Guil.* Conquestore ingressus.

Stafford

Stafford	Stafforde	Stafforde	Stafforde	Erdeswik Stafforde	Erdeswik	Minshal
Walkelin.				Erdeswik	Erdesw. Clinton	Erdeswik
				Erdeswik		
				Erdeswik Bassett		
				Erdeswik Harcourt		
				Erdeswik Grey		
				Erdeswik Lee		

Sampson Erdeswik. Elizabetha
Dikeswell

Elizabetha uxor prima fuit filia secunda et una trium heredum *Humfridi Dikeswell de church Waver* in com. *Warwici* armigeri ex qua quinque suscepit filias *Margaritam* nondum nuptam, *Helenam* uxorem *Thomae Coyne* de *Weston Coyne* in comitatu *Staffordiac* Armigeri Elizabetham, Mariam, et Margeriam. omnes superstites necdum enuptas.

Sampson Erdeswik. Maria Neale

Maria uxor secunda fuit filia secunda genitaetuna heredū *Ffrancisci Neale* de *Kaythorpe* in comitatu *Lecestrie* armigeri quae illi peperit *Richardum* et *Matheum* filios et *Jehāna* filia ut priori marito *Euerardo Digby* armigero 14 liberos enixa est, e quibus *Euerardus*, *Joannes*, *Georgius*, *Maria*, *Elizabetha*, *Ffrancisca*, et *Christiana*, nunc sunt superstites.

Vernon Semper Viret. Anno Domini 1601."

A plain marble tomb, altar shaped, in honour of Mr. George Digby, presents the following inscription :

"SI QVIS HIC JACEAT, MORES VIATOR
GEORGIUS DIOBAEVS
ARMIGER.
VIR (SI QVIS ALIVS) CELEBRATI NOMINIS,
NOBILI CLARVS PROSAPIA, SED VITA NOBILIORI
QUIPPE QUI
IPSVM NOBILITATIS FONTEM CAENO TURBATO
DEMVM LIMPIDVM REDDIDIT
QVOD EST
VT MEMET EXPLICEM
QUI REGIS JACOBI PURPURAM
MALÉDICTI *Schopii* DICTERIOI PVEDATAM
ONTACTATORIS SANGVINE.
RETIVNIT,
NEC TANEN HOMVNCIONEM PENITVS AVSTVLIT
SED GRAVIVS STIGMA FRONTI INCVSSIT
QVAM HENRICVS MAGNVS

LIBELLO.

QUO SCILICET TOTO VITAE CURRICULO
(UTPOTE OMNIUM CONTEMPTUI EXPOSITUS)

SENSIT SE MORI,

HUJUS HORREI FACINORIS INTUITU

A Jacobo HONORIBUS AUCTUS EST

Digbæus

MERITIS TANDEM ANNISQUE PLENUS

VIVERE DESIIT, SEMPER VICTURUS

IPSIS IDIBUS DECEMBRIS A. { *Χριστογίας*
 Ætatis sue LXXXVI.

TANTI HEROIS LAUDES

LICET NON TACEANT HISTORICI

HÆC SAXA LOQUI CURAVIT

LECTISSIMA HEROINA *Jana BARONISSA Gerrard*

De Bromley,

CLARISSIMI *Digbæi* FILIA

SUPERSTES UNICA."*

Sampson Erdeswicke, the celebrated antiquary of the county, whose monument we have already mentioned, was born at Sandon,

* The history to which this inscription relates, is thus given by Mr. Pennant in his Journey from Chester to London, in three separate notes. "Gaspar Scioppus," says that author, "was a German of great erudition, but of a most turbulent disposition. He became a convert to Popery in 1599, and naturally distinguished himself by a blind and furious zeal against his former religion, and even went so far as to recommend the utter extirpation of its professors. He was a fierce antagonist to Scaliger Causabon, and other Protestant writers; and in his book, intitled *Ecclesiasticus*, 1611, he attacked James I. in a very indecent manner. In consequence of this affront, Mr. Digby, and some other followers of the earl of Bristol, his ambassador to Spain, attacked Scioppus in the streets of Madrid in 1614, where they left him for dead. As soon as he recovered, he removed to Padua, dreading another attack. He lived in continual apprehensions, insomuch that he shut himself up in his room during the last fourteen years of his life, and died in 1649, at enmity with all mankind. He was equally profuse in his aspersions against Henry the fourth, in the book abovementioned, as he was of the English monarch. The regency of France, in honor to the memory of that great prince, directed it to be burned by the hands of the common hangman."

Pennant's Chester.

Sandon, about the middle of the sixteenth century. Fuller, in his *Worthies of England*, says he was descended of a right worshipful and ancient family. He seems to have been a man of considerable learning, and great accomplishments, no less conspicuous for his judgment, than for his industry. Being anxious to elucidate the history and antiquities of his native county, he began a work intituled "*A View of Staffordshire*," and continued it till the day of his death, which, as we have already noticed in the description of his tomb, took place on the 11th April 1603. Fuller acknowledges being hereby much assisted in his investigations, not only respecting this county but antiquities in general. He repaired and new glazed this church.*

The parish of *Stow* is situated about three miles eastward from Sandon, and at the distance of two miles from the river Trent. The church here, which consists of a small nave and chancel, was formerly distinguished by numerous monuments in honour of the noble family of Devereux; but only one of them now remains. It is the tomb of Walter, first Viscount *Hereford*, grandson of the first lord Ferrers, and founder of the house of Chartley. This nobleman gained himself great renown in the wars against France, during the reign of Henry the eighth. His bravery and good conduct in the naval attack upon Conquet in 1512 procured him the honours of the Garter, from that monarch; and his successor elevated him to the dignity of Viscount Hereford. His monument was erected during his lifetime, and is a very fine specimen of that department of architecture. It is an altar tomb supporting a recumbent effigy of his Lordship in robes, with the collar of the garter round his neck, his head reclining on a plume of feathers wreathed round a helmet. On one side of him lies his first wife, Mary, daughter of Thomas, Marquis of Dorset, and on the other, his second, Margaret, daughter of Robert Garnyche,

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Esq.

* Fuller's *Worthies of England*, Vol. II. p. 310. Camden calls him, "*venerandae antiquitatis cultor maximus*."

Esq. of Kyngeton in Suffolk. The sides of this monument are ornamented with six male and female figures, the former be-girt with swords.

At a small distance from this tomb is another of alabaster, having the figures of two persons engraven upon it, but so mutilated by time that the inscription is wholly illegible.

The chancel floor contains a brass plate in honour of Thomas Newport, steward of the household to Walter, first earl of Essex; upon which appears the following inscription:

*In obitum Thomae Newport Armigeri
Qui charus Charis fuerat qui firmus amicis;
En ! Thomas Newport conditur hoc tumulo.
Qui felix ortu fuit et morte beatus;
Quem Deus et Coelum, quem pia vota habent.*

Hanc lapidem posuit Ricms Bagot Ar Sup. fidele Amicum, scilicet Thoma Newport Ar. quondam Lencetratus hospitii prenobilis Walteri Comitis Essex, et Prenobilis Robti Comitis Essex qui oblit 30 die Junii 1587."

Adjoining to this parish is *Chartley*, remarkable as having been for some time the residence of Mary queen of Scots, during her unjust detention as a prisoner, by the haughty and jealous Elizabeth. The ancient edifice was built round a court, and great part of it is curiously made of wood, embattled at top, and the sides carved. In many places are the arms of the Devereux, together with devices of the Ferrars and Garnishes. Over the door of the gateway was carved a head in profile, with a crown over it. Several of the windows contained painted glass, with various representations. The whole of this house was destroyed by fire in 1781, so that little remains to mark its site, but the moat by which it was surrounded.

Not far from hence, on the summit of an artificial hill, stand the remains of the castle built by Richard Blundeville, earl of Chester





Sketch of
CHAWTLEY CASTLE,
Staffordshire.

Chester, in 1220, on his return from the Holy Land.* This fortress seems to have been very soon allowed to fall to decay, for we find it mentioned by Leland as being ruinous in his time.† Its present remains consist chiefly of the fragments of two rounders, and a part of a wall which measures twelve feet in thickness. The loop holes are so constructed as to allow arrows to be shot into the ditch, exactly under the tower or in a horizontal direction. The keep appears to have been circular, and fifty feet in diameter, a wall of brick having been raised on its foundations, and a summer house erected thereon, which has suffered considerably by time.

After the death of Randle the founder, this castle, with the estates belonging to him, devolved on William Ferrars earl of Derby; whose son Robert, having entered into the factious views of the Barons in the reign of king John, was defeated at Chesterfield in the year 1266; and consequently forfeited his estates to the crown. Henry the third shortly afterwards bestowed them upon Hamon le Strange; but, notwithstanding this, Robert possessed himself of it by force, and the king was compelled to command his brother Edmund earl of Lancaster, to besiege it, which he did, and took it after a very vigorous resistance. Ferrars, however, was pardoned; and, though deprived of his earldom of Derby, was suffered to retain this castle. In this family it continued, till the reign of Henry the sixth, when Anne or Agnes, heiress of William lord Ferrars, carried it by marriage to the Devereuxes, earls of Essex. Robert Devereux the last Earl, dying without issue, Charles II. declared Sir Robert Shirley, (who had married that Nobleman's

O o o 3

sister

* To defray the expenses of building this edifice, a tax was levied on all his vassals.

† Leland's words are, "Chartley the olde castell, is now yn ruine; but olde yerle Randol, as sum say, lay in it when he builded Deulencres abbay. This castel standeth a good site shot from the building, and goodly manor place, that now is ther as the principal house of the Ferrars, and cam to them be similitude by marriage. Ther is a mighte large parke."

sister Dorothy) lord Ferrars of Chartley. This Nobleman was afterwards created viscount Tamworth and earl Ferrars by queen Anne. In 1754, the barony devolved on Charlotte wife of George viscount Townshend, whose son George succeeded her in 1770.

STONE.

This market town is situated on the northern bank of the river Trent, at the distance of seven miles from Stafford. Since the canal navigation between the Trent and the Mersey was effected, it has considerably increased in extent. It consists of one principal street, which is now a pretty good one, with a new market place ; and contains a population of 2035 persons, of whom 963 are males, and 1072 females.

But what chiefly renders this town remarkable, is the religious foundations which it anciently contained. Wulferus king of Mercia, whom we have already noticed as having built a castle at Bury Bank, founded a monastery here for canons regular of the order of St Augustine, about the year 670. This prince had been brought up in the Pagan worship, but after his father's death became a convert to Christianity, and married Ermenilda, a Christian princess, daughter of Egbert king of Kent, by whom he had two sons Wulfad and Rufin, also a daughter named Werburgh. In this faith he continued for some years, when he thought proper to embrace Paganism again, and educated his children in that religion. Wulfad, however, during a hunt, having accidentally entered the cell of St. Chad, who resided as a hermit at Stowe in the neighbourhood of Lichfield, was converted to Christianity by that saint. Rufin, his brother, soon followed his example, and both joined in requesting their instructor to remove himself nearer to their father's castle, which he accordingly did, and fixed himself at a neighbouring hermitage. At this place the princes, under pretence of hunting, constantly visited him to receive his instructions,

stractions, but being discovered by Werebod, one of Wulfere's Pagan counsellors, they were accused by him of apostasy to their father's tenets. This inhuman monarch having in vain urged them to renounce their new faith, watched their steps so closely, that having traced them to their devotions, he put them immediately to death. St. Chad, to avoid the same fate, fled to his former cell near Lichfield. To this spot Wulfere soon after repaired likewise; and, becoming a sincere penitent, was once more converted to the true faith, and abolished idolatry from his dominions.

Besides the monastery, so founded by Wulfere, Ermenudo his queen is said to have established a nunnery here, whose *religieuses* were dispersed by the Danes. Upon their retreat, however, they seem to have returned, or at least a new establishment was formed, for there can be no doubt but that religious existed here at the time of the Conquest. Enysan, a Norman, is reported to have murdered the nuns and a priest here; but the truth of this statement is extremely questionable. He appears, however, to have removed the female votaries, and converted the house into a priory, by filling it with canons from Kenelworth, and making it a cell to that abbey. The church belonging to this institution was the place of interment of several of the Stafford family, whose magnificent monument lay here till the dissolution, when they were removed to the Augustine friary at Stafford. A fragment of this house is still visible on the road side, at the southern extremity of the town; and at the construction of that road, about forty years ago, several subterraneous passages, connecting its different buildings, were discovered.

The church of Stone is a new erection, neat in its architecture, but disfigured considerably by the diminutive height of its tower. It is dedicated to St. Wulfad, and is a vicarage in the gift of the marquis of Stafford. On the north east side of the church yard, stands a large stone vault with two wings, the property of the Jervoise family.

There is in this town a Free and Charity school and an excellent endowment for the support of poor widows, the gift of one of the Levisons of Trentham.

The village of *Shelton*, lying at a considerable distance to the north of Newcastle-under-line, gave birth to *Elijah Fenton*, a celebrated poet of the last century. He was descended from an ancient family, whose estate was very considerable; and was the youngest of eleven children. It was the intention of his friends, that he should take orders; but having, while at Cambridge, embraced principles inimical to government, he became disqualified for the church, by refusing the necessary oaths. Having, therefore, been driven out a commoner of nature, excluded from the regular modes of profit and prosperity, and reduced to pick up an uncertain livelihood, he engaged himself as usher to Mr. Bonwicke, a celebrated schoolmaster at Headley in Surrey, in which situation, however, he only remained for a short time, having been appointed secretary to the earl of Orrery, who likewise placed his only son lord Boyle under his tuition. This young nobleman entertained a degree of friendship for the poet, almost amounting to veneration, insomuch, that after his decease he could scarcely speak of him without tears. After this he for some time kept a school for himself at Sevenoaks in Kent, which he brought into reputation, but was persuaded by Mr. St. John, with promises of a more honourable employment, to relinquish it. By the recommendation of Mr. Pope, he for some time was placed in a situation, which held out to him the most flattering prospects. This was to assist Mr. Craggs, then Secretary of state, in the studies which he found necessary to supply the deficiencies of his education. The death of that statesman, however, very shortly subsequent to his introduction, blasted the hopes which he might otherwise have entertained. Pope again proved serviceable to his friend, by recommending him to conduct the education of the eldest son of Lady Trumbal, at whose seat,

seat, in the neighbourhood of East Hamstead, Berkshire, he died on the 13th July 1730.

The death of Fenton was a subject of deep regret, among all men of taste. Even his brother bards greatly lamented him, being one of the few devoted to the muses, who have been fortunate enough to escape the malignant look of envy unhappily too often the foible of poets. Pope, in particular, was severely affected by the event, and honoured him with the following epitaph :

" This modest stone, what few vain mortals boast,
 May truly say, here lies an honest man,
 A Poet, blessed beyond a poet's fate,
 Whom heaven kept sacred from the proud and great.
 Foe to loud praise, and friend to learned ease,
 Content with science in the vale of peace,
 Calmly he look'd on either life, and here
 Saw nothing to regret, or there to fear,
 From nature's temperate feast rose satisfied,
 Thank'd heaven, that he had lived, and that he dy'd."

The first publication by Mr. Fenton, which made its appearance in the year 1709, was a volume of poems intituled "Oxford and Cambridge Verses." In 1717 a volume of his own was produced, and in 1723 his tragedy of *Mariamne*,* having received the approbation of the managers, was performed with great applause at one of the London theatres. This piece is founded on the story related of that lady in the third volume of the *Spectator*, which the ingenious writer had collected from Josephus. He besides wrote a life of Milton, of which Dr. Johnson speaks in terms of high commendation, and also edited a fine edition of the works of Waller, accompanied with

* Dr. Johnson tells us, that when shewn to Cibber, it was rejected by him with the additional insolence of advising Fenton to engage himself in some employment of honest labour, which he never could hope for from his poetry. When the play was acted at the other house, however, Cibber's opinion was confuted by the approbation of the public.

with very valuable notes by himself. Such of Fenton's poems as were not published in the last edition of his works are preserved in "Nichol's Select Collection," given to the public in 1780.

The personal appearance and moral character of Fenton, as well as his merits as a poet, are thus given by Dr. Johnson, with that force and discrimination for which his name is so justly celebrated :

"Fenton was tall and bulky, inclined to corpulence which he did not lessen by much exercise, for he was very sluggish and sedentary, rose late, and when he had risen, sat down to his books or papers. A woman, that once waited on him in a lodging, told him, as she said, that he would 'lie abed and be fed with a spoon.' This, however, was not the worst that might have been prognosticated ; for Pope says, in his letters, that he died of indolence, but his immediate distemper was the gout.

"Of his morals and conversation, the account is uniform ; he was never named but with praise and fondness, as a man in the highest degree amiable and excellent. Such was the character given him by the earl of Oviery, his pupil ; such is the testimony of Pope ; and such were the suffrages of all who could boast of his acquaintance."

By a former writer of his life, a story is told which ought not to be forgotten.

"He used, in the latter part of his time, to pay his relations in the country a yearly visit. At an entertainment made for the family by an elder brother, he observed that one of his sisters, who had married unfortunately was absent ; and found, upon enquiry, that distress had made her thought unworthy of invitation. As she was at no great distance, he refused to sit at the table till she was called ; and, when she had taken her place, was careful to shew her particular attention."

His collection of poems is now to be considered. The ode to the *Sun* is written upon a common plan, without uncommon

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sentiments ;

sentiments ; but its greatest fault is its length. No poem should be long of which the purpose is only to strike the fancy, without enlightening the understanding by precept, ratiocination, or narrative. A blaze first pleases, and then tires the sight.

Of *Florelio* it is sufficient to say, that it is an occasional pastoral, which implies something neither natural nor artificial, neither comic nor serious.

The next ode is irregular, and therefore defective. As the sentiments are pious, they cannot easily be new ; for what can be added to topics, on which successive ages have been employed ?

Of the *Paraphrase on Isaiah*, nothing very favourable can be said. Sublime and solemn praise gains little by a change to blank verse ; and the paraphrast has deserted his original, by admitting images not Asiatic, at least not Judaical :

————— Returning Peace,
Dove-eyed, and rob'd in white.

Of his petty poems some are very trifling, without any thing to be praised either in the thought or expression. He is unlucky in his competitions ; he tells the same idle tale with Congreve, and does not tell it so well. He translates from Ovid the same epistle as Pope ; but I am afraid not with equal happiness."

Thomas Allen, a celebrated mathematician of the sixteenth century, according to Mr. Erdeswicke, was born at Bucknall, an adjoining village in 1542.* The same author informs us he was descended from Alanus de Buckenhall, who lived in the time of Edward the second ; but few particulars are known concerning his more immediate progenitors. Where he received the rudiments of his education is uncertain ; but in 1561 we find him admitted a scholar of Trinity College Oxford. In 1567 he took his degree of Master of Arts, and three years subsequent quitted the University, and retired to Glosterhall, where he continued his studies with great assiduity, and became

* In this opinion, Dr. Plot would seem to agree ; but Fuller, Wood, and Camden, say he was a native of Uttoxeter.

came celebrated for his knowledge, as an antiquary and philosopher, particularly in the science of geometry. Upon the invitation of Henry earl of Northumberland, the Mæcenas of the mathematicians of his age, he resided for some time at that nobleman's house, a circumstance which was the means of introducing him to several of the first mathematical characters at that time in England. Robert earl of Leicester evinced a particular attachment to our author, and even offered him a bishopric; but his love of ease and retirement predominated over his ambition. His great knowledge of mathematics, as not unfrequently happened at that period, drew upon the suspicions of the ignorant and vulgar, that he was a magician or conjuror. Accordingly the author of a work intituled "*Leicester Commonwealth*," openly accused him of using the art of figuring to further his patron's schemes, to bring about a match between himself and queen Elizabeth. The absurdity of the accusation is manifest; but, waving this, it is certain that the Earl placed so much confidence in his talents and secrecy, that no political transactions of moment occurred, in which he did not solicit his advice. Having lived to a great age in philosophic retirement, he died at Glosterhall in 1632.

That the character of Allen for talents and erudition stood very high, is clear from the sentiments expressed concerning him by several contemporary and succeeding writers. Mr. Selden says, "he was a man of the most extensive learning and consummate judgement, the brightest ornament of the University of Oxford." Camden calls him, "skilled in most of the best arts and sciences;" and Mr. Burton, who wrote his funeral sermon, styles him "not only the Coryphæus, but the very soul and sun, of all the mathematicians of his time." He was curious and indefatigable in collecting scattered manuscripts, in different departments of science, which are frequently quoted by other authors, and mentioned as having been deposited in the *Bibliotheca Alleniana*.*

The

* Plot's *Hist. Staff.* p. 276.

Gent. Biog. Dict.

The market town of *Handley*, situated about two miles north-east from Newcastle under Line, is distinguished for the elegance of its church, which is built of brick; and surmounted by a square tower, one hundred feet high. It was founded in the year 1788, and is said to have cost upwards of five thousand pounds, in its erection. Saturday is the market day, when provisions of all kinds are supplied in abundance. There are here also Methodist and Dissenting meeting houses.

About a mile to the southwest of this town is *Eturia*, the superb mansion of Josias Wedgewood, Esq. who is so justly celebrated, for his numerous and valuable discoveries in the art of pottery; which have not only greatly contributed to the ornament and convenience of ordinary life, but have been the means of assisting the progress of chemical investigation. Wedgewood's crucible is one of the most necessary and useful inventions in the apparatus, which that science requires for its prosecution; and his pyrometer is perhaps the only instrument we have, capable of measuring high degrees of heat with any tolerable accuracy.

Lanc End, in this vicinity, is a thriving market-town. The church is of modern erection of brick, built apparently in imitation of that at Handley. Besides the church, there are here several places of public worship, appropriated to the meetings of Methodists and Dissenters. The market is held on Saturday.

Hilton, situated about three miles to the north east of Newcastle, is remarkable, as having been the seat of an abbey of Cistercian monks, founded by Henry de Audley, in the year 1223. This monastery was granted at the dissolution to Sir Edward Aston of Tixal.

Stoke, which lies between this place and the river Trent, has been lately rendered a market town. The market house is a very handsome building, and is furnished with all the accommodations requisite for its object. The church is an ancient edifice,

edifice, in the Saxon style of architecture ; but possesses no features of peculiar interest.

The market town of *Burslem*, is finely situated on a gentle eminence, to the north of Newcastle : and at the distance of 158 miles from London. This town is the largest and most populous of any in this district, containing, according to the parliamentary returns of 1801, a population of 6578 persons ; viz. 3201 males, and 3377 females, of whom 5886 were returned, as being engaged in different branches of trade and manufacture, and 243 only in agriculture. A market is held here twice every week on Monday and Saturday. The market house is a neat edifice of modern erection surmounted by a clock. The church is an ancient structure with a massive square tower at one end. Here is also a Methodist meeting house.

The district, which we have just described, is usually distinguished by the name of The Potteries. They reach from Lane End, on the north east of Newcastle under Line, to Golden Hill, which lies upwards of four miles to the north west of that town, including altogether an extent of somewhat more than eight miles. This manufactory is perhaps superior to any of its kind in Europe, and does not yield in point of usefulness to the celebrated potteries of China. As has happened with every other branch of trade, however, it has been much injured by the war, its productions forming in time of peace a very important article of exportation.

The parish of *Biddulph*, situated almost at the north west extremity of the county, presents some curious remains of antiquity, which are worthy of particular observation. The principal among these, are the Bridestones, consisting of eight upright free stones, two of which stand within a semicircle, formed by the other six. The exterior ones are placed at the distance of six feet from each other. Some antiquaries suppose that the circle was formerly complete, from the circumstance of there being an appearance of holes, where stones have stood
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in positions forming another semicircle, continued from the extreme points of the semicircle of stones. West from this spot may be seen the pavement of a kind of artificial cave, composed of broken fragments of stone, about two inches and a half thick. Under them, to the depth of six inches, is laid a quantity of white stone pounded; the upper surface being tinged with black, probably from the ashes falling through the pavement, which was covered with oak charcoal, and some small bits of burnt bones. Two large unhewn free stones about eighteen feet long, and six high, forms the sides of this cave, which was likewise formerly separated into two divisions by a stone five feet and a half high and six inches thick, having a circular hole cut through it, about nineteen inches and a half in diameter. The whole was covered with long unhewn flat free stones, since taken away. The height from the pavement to this covering measured five feet ten inches. The entrance was filled up with stone and earth.

At a small distance from this cave, were two others of similar construction, but smaller, and without any interior partition. These caves were covered with a large heap of stones, about one hundred and twenty feet in length, and twelve in breadth. The stones having been removed, at different periods, by masons and others, for various purposes, left the cells open for examination.

HUNDRED OF TOTMANSLOW.

UTTOXETER. This town is finely situated on a gentle eminence, close to the western bank of the river Dove, at the distance of fourteen miles from Stafford, and one hundred and thirty five from London. It is a place of very great antiquity, and was probably a British settlement, even previous to the Roman invasion. A noble stone bridge is here thrown over the river; and connects the two counties of Stafford and Derby.

Much

Much damage has been formerly sustained by this town, from fire; but it is now large and well built, having a market place in the centre, with three streets branching out from it. The market is one of the first in this district of the country; for cattle, sheep, pigs, cheese, and, in general, every article of agricultural produce. This is owing to the extensive meadow and pasture lands in the neighbourhood, which are justly esteemed among the most fertile and luxuriant England can boast of possessing.

Uttoxeter and its vicinity, particularly the latter, abound with iron forges, employed in the manufacture of that useful and valuable metal. This trade has been greatly increased of late years, in consequence of the facility of communication the town now enjoys, by means of the inland navigation; which connects it not only with the metropolis, but, directly or indirectly, with every port either in the eastern or western ocean.

The town of Uttoxeter, from its lofty situation, is extremely favourable to health; and hence instances of longevity frequently occur here. Sir Simon Degge, the celebrated antiquary, writes on this subject as follows, in a letter dated the 26th of August 1726: "In the three weeks I have been at Uttoxeter, there have been buried four men, and two women, one woman aged 94, the other 83, one man 91, another 87, and another 82, and one young man of 68. Yesterday I talked with a man of 90, who has all his senses, and walks without a staff; about a month since he had a fever, and was speechless two days; his daughter is 60; and, about six months since, he buried his wife, who had lived 63 years with him, and was aged 85. In this town are now living, three men and their wives, who have had fifty three children, and each has the wife, by whom he had his children, now alive. They are all young men, the oldest not being above 60. I will only tell you that in 1702, there died here three women, their years as follows: one 108, the second 126, and the third 87."

The trifling resemblance in sound between the names of the Saxon *Vitok-cestre*, and the *Etoctum* of Antoninus, at one time, led Mr. Camden to conjecture that this was the Roman station, which every antiquary, Salmon excepted, has placed at *Wall*, as we have already noticed. It is hardly possible to avoid remarking on this, as on numerous other occasions, the extreme liability of a credulous or fanciful antiquary, to be deceived with respect to the sounds of words. Would all antiquaries, however, follow the honest example of Camden, they would often have occasion to say, as he does respecting the mistake into which he had fallen concerning the place of *Etoctum*:—"I was amused by mistaken conjecture." A species of amusement to which all antiquaries are extremely addicted; but which they do not often like to confess.

Of this town Leland* writes as follows: "*Uttok-Cestre* has one paroch church. The menne of the towne usith grasing, for there be wonderful pastures upon Dove. It longeth to the erldom of Lancaster. A frescole founded by a priest Thomas Allen. He founded another at Stone in the reign of Queen Mary."

The *Minors* family, remarkably for their attachment to a seafaring life, were residents of *Hollingbury Hall*, in this parish. Captain Richard Minors, in Plot's time was proprietor of the seat, which was squandered; and in Degge's time, belonged to one James Wood. This Richard Minors distinguished himself considerably in the Dutch wars; and also against the rebels at Colchester. He followed his relation William Minors, who sailed eleven times to the East Indies.†

The lordship of this town at the time of the conquest belonged to the king, but was afterwards given to Henry de Ferrars, whose descendants were subsequently created earls of Derby. Robert earl of Derby, being so unfortunate as to take a part in several rebellions against Henry the third, had

Vol. XIII.

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his

* It. VII. 36.

† M. S. Note on Plot, p. 275, apud Gough's Camden, Vol. II. p. 516.

his whole estates forfeited, after the battle of Evesham. The king bestowed them upon Edmund earl of Lancaster, his younger son, under a clause of redemption upon payment of 50000*l.* by a certain day. The earl, however, being unable to pay this sum, the estates were confirmed to Edmund, from whose family they passed by marriage to John of Gaunt, king of Castile and duke of Lancaster.

The market day here is Wednesday.

According to the parliamentary returns of 1801 the resident population of this town amounted to 2779 persons, 1275 males, and 1504 females, of which number 2,300 were returned as employed in trade and manufactures, and 427 in agriculture.

The church of this town is an ancient edifice; nowise remarkable either for structure or embellishments. There are here several meeting houses for Dissenters, and a free school founded and endow'd by that celebrated mathematician, Thomas Allen, whose birth place we have fix'd at Bucknal upon the authority of Mr. Erdeswicke, contrary to Fuller and Camden, who say he was born here.

The late distinguished *Admiral Lord Gardner* was born here on the 12th April 1742. He was the eighth son of ~~Reverend~~ Colonel Gardner, of the 11th regiment of dragoons. Having at an early period shewn a strong bias towards the naval service, he was rated, when 14 years old, as a midshipman, on board the *Medway* of sixty guns, then under the immediate orders of captain Sir Peter Denis, an officer of distinguished merit. In this vessel Mr. Gardner remained for two years, during which time he was present in an action, in which the *Duc d'Aquitaine* French ship of the line was taken. From the *Medway*, our young midshipman afterwards accompanied his captain, first on board the *Namur*, and afterwards into the *Dorsetshire*. In the former he served under Admiral Hawke, during the expedition against Rochfort; and, while on board the latter, was present at the capture of the *Raisonable*, on which occasion Captain Denis put in practice the plan now adopted

adopted by the new school, of not firing a single ball till within a few yards of the enemy's ship. He likewise bore a share in the general engagement, which took place off Belleisle in 1769, between the British and French fleets, commanded by Sir Edward Hawke, and the Marshal de Conflans. Mr. Gardner, having now been five years in constant service, was appointed Lieutenant on board of the *Bellona*, after the customary examinations. In this station he distinguished himself at the capture of the *Le Courageux*, whereupon he was raised to the rank of master and commander, and appointed to the *Raven* of sixteen guns. After the lapse of four years, he was made post in the *Preston* of fifty guns, which had been fitted out as the flag ship of rear-admiral Parry, whom he accompanied to Port Royal in Jamaica. During the whole time of his being stationed here Great Britain was at peace with all the nations of Europe, so that the only circumstance which occurred, requiring notice in this sketch, was his marriage with Susannah Hyde, only daughter of Francis Oale, Esq. a planter in Liguania. This lady having soon brought him a numerous family, and being himself ambitious of rising in the service, he made every effort to obtain an appointment as soon as the American contest began. Accordingly he was nominated to the command of the *Maidstone* frigate, in which he sailed for the West Indies early in 1778; and, in the course of that year, was so fortunate as to make a rich capture on the coast of America. On the fourth of November he fell in with the *Lion*, a French man of war, having on board fifteen hundred hogsheads of tobacco, and after a severe action compelled her to surrender. With this prize he sailed for Antigua; and was, soon after his arrival, promoted by Admiral Byron to the command of the *Sultan* of 74 guns. In the drawn battle which was fought some time subsequent with the French fleet under Count de Estaing, off the island of Grenada, captain Gardner led the van, and greatly distinguished himself. His ship, however, suffered so much, that he was ordered to Jamaica, from

whence he shortly after sailed for England, when the *Sultan* was discharged. He did not, however, remain long out of commission, having been appointed to the *Duke* in the course of a few months, with which ship he sailed to join the fleet in the West Indies, then under the orders of Sir George Rodney, and was fortunate enough to arrive in time to participate in the glorious victory of the twelfth of April 1782. On that memorable day, his ship was the first to break through the enemy's line of battle, according to the new plan of attack, suggested by Mr. Clerk of Eldon, and then for the first time put in practice. At one period of this action the *Duke*, in conjunction with the *Formidable* and *Namur*, had to sustain the fire of eleven of the enemy's ships. Soon after this triumph the American war terminated, and peace continued for several years to shed her benignant influence over the several nations of Europe. During this period, Captain Gardner was employed in different capacities. For some time he acted as Commodore on the Jamaica station, and in 1790 was appointed a Lord of the Admiralty, when he likewise obtained a seat in Parliament.

In the year 1793, having been raised to the rank of Rear-Admiral of the Blue, he hoisted his flag on board the *Queen* of 98 guns, in which he sailed as Commander in chief to the Leeward islands. Soon after this event, finding the disputes between the republicans and royalists in the colony of Martinico to run very high, and being earnestly pressed by the latter to effect a descent on the island, accordingly Major General Bruce, landed with 3000 men; but that officer judged it expedient to re-embark again, almost immediately, being satisfied that the republican party was too strong to afford just hopes of success, in the royal cause. Admiral Gardner now returned to England, and the following year bore a part in the action of the 1st of June, under the gallant earl Howe. On this occasion his conduct was conspicuous in the extreme, his ship having suffered more than any other in the fleet, with the

exception of the Brunswick. In consequence, he not only was particularly thanked by the Commander in chief, but was appointed major general of Marines, and created a baronet of Great Britain. On the 22d June 1795, Sir Alan was present at the action off Port l'Orient, when the French fleet only saved itself from total destruction by a timely flight. Two years after this event, when a dangerous mutiny had broken out at Portsmouth, he manifested a degree of firmness and resolution, during that trying period, worthy of his high character as a British naval officer. From this time he continued to serve in the Channel fleet, till the close of the year 1799, when he was sent with sixteen sail of the line, to reinforce the fleet off Cadiz, and in the Mediterranean. Perceiving, however, that little danger was to be apprehended in these quarters he returned, with nine sail of the line, accompanied by the convoy from Lisbon.

In 1800, we once more find him serving in the Channel fleet, but he was soon after appointed to succeed Admiral Kingsmill, the naval commander in Ireland, being previously raised to the dignity of an Irish peer. This command he continued to hold till the year 1807, when he hoisted his flag as Admiral of the Channel fleet; which ill health, however, soon compelled him to relinquish. He died in 1810, and was buried in the abbey church of Bath, with the grandeur and solemnity due to his rank and merit.

Lord Gardner's political career was not distinguished by any circumstance of great moment. He sat in three successive parliaments. His first election took place in 1790 when he was returned one of the representatives for the town of Plymouth. In 1796 he was colleague to Mr. Fox, in the representation of Westminster. On this occasion he was opposed by Mr. John Horne Tooke, whose wit, satire, and eloquence, were more alarming to the Admiral, than a shower of cannonballs from an enemy's fleet. Notwithstanding this circumstance, however, he once more offered himself, as a candidate

for the same city, and was again successful. At this time Mr. Fox, in addressing the electors, said, "A noble Admiral has been proposed to you. I certainly cannot boast of agreeing with him in political opinions: but whom could the electors pitch upon more worthy of their choice, than the noble lord, in his private character universally respected, and a man who has served his country with a zeal, a gallantry, a spirit, and a splendour, that will reflect upon him immortal honour."*

This place also gave birth to Sir Simon Degge, an antiquary principally known for his MS. notes on Plot's Natural History of Staffordshire. He died at the advanced age of 92.†

CHECKLEY

Is a hamlet containing few inhabitants. It is situate about four miles and a half east of Uttoxeter; and is noticed only for its three pyramidal stones, which stand in the church yard. The inhabitants have a tradition, that these stones were originally set up to preserve the memory of a great battle, fought between the Danes and the English, in which the latter were victorious. They moreover tell us, that one of their armies was totally unarmed; and that three bishops, whom these stones represent, fell in the engagement. The middlemost is the highest, but has no figure attached to it, as have the other two. On this tradition Camden remarks, that he had not been able to discover any historical evidence of its truth. Mr. Gough calls the stones, funeral monuments, perhaps Danish. This is asserted without authority, however probable the conjecture. The figures are rude and unmeaning.

CHEADLE

Is the next market town to Uttoxeter, in this hundred. It is

* Imperial and County Annual Register, for 1810.

† Gough's Camden, II. p. 516.

is pleasantly situated in a vale, but is surrounded on all sides by bleak and almost barren hills, composed of sterile gravel, distributed in various large heaps. The top of the hill on the west, affords a bold and commanding view of the highest part of the town, even, as Mr. Pitt observes, of the chimney-tops. Owing to the public-spirited exertions, and judicious management, of John Holliday, Esq. lord of the manor of Cheadle, many hilly districts in this neighbourhood have been greatly improved. *Cheadle Park*, forming the hill just mentioned, is three miles in circumference, and consists of thirty-three inclosures, which lett, on an average, at fifteen shillings per acre. They abound in coal mines of considerable value. That part, however, nearest the town, is still sandy and unimproved. This park, from which Lichfield Minster, though distant twenty-seven miles, may be distinctly seen, is much resorted to as a pleasant walk.

The hills, north and west of the town, are generally composed of the same materials as the one just mentioned, upon an understratum of sand, or sandy rock; and the herbage also consisting, for the most part, of broom, heath, whortleberries, mountain cinquefoil, matt grass, and hemp seeds. These barren wastes, observes Mr. Pitt, are pretty extensive, and not worth, he believes, more than one shilling per acre, as pasturage for sheep, or any other animal. Though this gentleman is of opinion, that they are generally too poor and beggarly, to be reclaimable by cultivation, for the purposes of corn or pasturage, he has suggested some valuable hints, for rendering these moorland districts valuable, when converted into coppices and plantations of timber and underwood; and suggests that probably the Scotch and other firs, and sycamore, would succeed here. And, indeed, what Mr. Holliday has accomplished in the neighbourhood of Dillhorn is sufficient proof that few, if any, of these uncultivated wastes, are really incapable of being rendered highly valuable nurseries of timber. In the year 1792, the gold medal was adjudged to this

gentleman, for having planted, on twenty-eight acres, three roods, and twenty-eight perches of land, 113,500 mixed timber trees.* Since that time other attempts have been made, and with considerable success, to improve these apparently barren wastes. The hints of Mr. Pitt, to which I have just alluded, are deserving of a place in this work. "Perhaps," says he, "many other of our native timber trees might succeed, intermixed with these, (*viz.* the fir and the sycamore) as one would shelter and screen another. To give any such plantations a fair chance of success, I should propose to begin, not on the summits, but on the declivities, of the hills; and as such first plantations increased in growth, to proceed with such fresh ones nearer the summit, till the whole should be covered; by which management the plants of strength and growth would be made to protect and shelter those of tender age. The putrefaction and rotting of leaves, from such plantations, would increase and enrich the surface soil; and as they came to maturity, the woodlands, upon plain and practicable ground, might be cleared and converted into arable and pasture land. If such scheme be practicable, which I think it certainly is by judicious management and perseverance, these dreary barren hills, which now convey an idea of nothing but poverty, want, and misery, would not only ornament and beautify the country, but, by furnishing it with timber and wood, answer the purposes of more valuable land, and enable an equal breadth of plain woodland to be converted to pasture and arable, without rendering the supply of these necessary articles uncertain or precarious." This sensible and judicious plan, founded on the true economy of nature, and the perfect analogy of animal life, to which vegetation bears so near and so pleasing a resemblance, would apply with equal force to many other districts; and, if perseveringly and extensively put into execution, would be of signal advantage to the agricultural interests of Great Britain.

Whilst

* Rev. Stebbing Shaw's Note in Pitt's *Agricul. Sur.* p. 262.

Whilst we are on this subject of the wastes of the Moorlands, and as it has not been sufficiently adverted to before, it may be well to enlarge this apparent digression by a more extended and detailed view of the soil and natural products of this wild and romantic portion of the county. The moorlands, as they are called, comprehend a large part of the north east district, and are usually described, as comprehending all that part north of a line, supposed to be drawn in an oblique direction from Uttoxeter to Newcastle-under-Line. This delineation cannot be better described than in the words of Mr. Pitt, who, in the Appendix to his interesting Survey, has given a somewhat brief, but upon the whole, very accurate description. Of this we can vouch with the greater freedom, from having ourselves traversed most of the districts, which he mentions.

The commons, or waste lands, between Cheadle and Oak-moor, (a place so named from being nearly covered with dwarf oaks,)* called *High-Shutt Ranges*, and *Alveton-common*, consist of an immense number of rude heaps of gravel, upon an understratum of soft sandy rock, thrown together without order or form, or rather, into every form that can be conceived, into sudden swells and deep glens, with scarcely a level perch: the mind, in endeavouring to account for their formation, must conceive it owing either to some violent convulsion of nature, or some strange confusion of matter. This tract, impracticable to the plough, now rough, barren, and bare, might be improved into woodland and plantations, and some open spots of the most favourable aspects might be reserved for gardens to cottage tenements, and cultivated with the spade and hoe. Above *Oak-moor*, to the north, the plan of planting precipices has been executed. A plantation has been made there, on a declivity as barren, rocky, and bare of soil, as any before mentioned. This plantation, which is little more than twenty years old, is in a very thriving state, and contains Scotch fir, spruce, oak, lime, birch, fallow, and mountain ash.

A little

* Note S in Pitt, p. 264.

A little north of Oak-moor, the lime-stone country begins, and extends over a great breadth of country to the north, east and west, in many places rising out of the main surface in huge cliffs. The Weaver hills, already mentioned,* are covered with a rich, calcareous, loamy earth, capable of being improved into very good arable, or pasture land. These hills are composed of immense heaps of lime-stone, and are enclosed in large tracts by stone walls. Their height we have briefly mentioned before.† On one of the summits grows, indigenous, the upland burnet (*poterium sanguisorba*.) This plant has not been deemed a native of Staffordshire. The herbage of these hills contains many good plants, both grasses and trifoliums, but the hills are much overgrown with uneven lumps, covered with moss or lichen.

Stoutmoor, to the east, is a considerable waste on a limestone. Large quantities of lime are burnt upon *Cauldon Low*, and elsewhere in this neighbourhood, and there are marks of lime-kilns, formerly on *Weaver-Hills*. Lime is much used here as manure, being sometimes laid on ploughed ground, and at other times on turf, with very good effect in fining such turf. It has been remarked, that after liming a coarse turf, white clover has been produced in abundance, where that plant had not been observed before. The limestone here is intermixed with a proportion of gypsum or alabaster.

The fences are for the most part composed of stone walls, often so constructed as to admit the winds, which are sometimes very high in these districts, to pass through them. When we were there, we noticed, that the most compact walls had received the greatest damage from the weather. Mr. Pitt expresses himself with some warmth, against this "barbarous practice," of using stone walls instead of quickset fences, which he says are much cheaper, more durable, vastly more beautiful and ornamental, and make the country and climate more temperate. This opinion, particularly with regard to the point of cheapness,

* Vide ante. p. 729.

† Ubi supra.

cheapness, one of Mr. Pitt's annotators, Mr. Sneyd, of Belmont, near Leek, does not confirm. He remarks that stone walls were originally raised from the prevailing idea of convenience and cheapness, in finding the material on the surface; and he adds, no wonder they should be continued; and in many places, (particularly low situations,) they are superior to hedges. So confident, however, is Mr. Pitt, that quickset fences are infinitely superior, in every respect, to stone walls, that he is persuaded, if the owners and occupiers of land would have so much regard for their own interest, and the symmetry and beauty of their country, as by degrees to do away this invention of barbarous ages, and a violence to Nature, by planting quicksets, to which the stone walls would be a fence and shelter on one side; and if they would, moreover, attend to the other certainly very plausible and valuable improvements, which he suggests, "posterity will wonder why the country was called Moorlands."

We will not here farther pursue Mr. Pitt's very ingenious and pleasing account of the Moorlands; but will notice the parts in succession as we pass along.

Cheadle itself has nothing remarkable, either in its history, or for remains of antiquity. The church, which is dedicated to St. Giles, is an ancient structure. The trade consists for the most part of copper, brass, and tin, works. The market is on Fridays, and is amply supplied with provisions of all kinds. The population, according to the census of 1801, consists of 2,750 inhabitants, viz. 1371 males, and 1379 females, of which number 675 were returned as being employed in various trades and manufactures, and 468 in agriculture. This return is, however, certainly very erroneous; and much below the truth. There were then 577 houses. They have increased very considerably since that period; and both this and other market towns of the Moorlands are gradually enlarging in proportion with the progress made in inclosures and cultivation.

Here

Here are also a Free School, with a small endowment, and meeting houses for Methodists and Dissenters of various denominations.

Cheadle was the ancient seat of the great baronial family of Basset, of Drayton, Blore, &c.* On this account it will not be improper to proceed immediately to some account of

BLORE,

A village not otherwise remarkable than as connected with this illustrious family of Bassets. Of the ancient mansion of these barons, scarcely any vestiges can now be discovered; its site being occupied by a modern farm house. Erdeswicke calls it "a goodly house antient and a parke, now the seat of the Bassets of Staffordshire XX° of the conqueror Edricus, held it of Rob. de Stadford. And 33° H. III. William de Blore, who had married Agnes, daughter to Petrus Thornton, Clericus Hugonis Comitis Cestriae, was lord of it.

"William Blore had issue by the said Agnes, Clementia, married to William, younger sonne of Henry de Audeley and Elionora.

"William de Audeley, and Clementia, (who had Blore and Grendon for her portion) had issue John Dus de Blore, who had issue Wm. Dus de Blore, who had issue Allayne, lord of Blore, who had issue Hugh Audley, lord of Blore and Grendon in the latter end of Edward II's. tyme, whose daughter or sister, and heire (as I suppose) was married to John, the sonne of John Basset, or else, to Sir Henry Braylesford, knt. and his daughter and heire Joane, was married to Sir John Basset, Knt. which Sir John Basset, was sonne to the aforesaid John sonne of John, and the first of these three was second sonne of

Raufe,

* See Dugdale's Baronage, the Topographer, Vol. II. p. 318. *et seq.* and Collins's Peerage by Sir E. Brydges, VIII. p. 502, *et seq.*

Raufe, second son of William Bassett, Justice in Itinere, 22 Henry II.*

As this family is one of the most illustrious and most extensive in this county, we do not suppose any apology is required, for inserting a short account of their pedigree in this place.

Thurstan, a Norman Baron, was the founder of the family in England. He held five hides of land at Drayton, already described, and had issue, Ralph Bassett of Colston and Drayton, lord chief Justice of England under Henry I, who made many good laws, and was buried in the chapter house at Abingdon; leaving behind five sons. Of these the eldest, named Thurston Bassett, died without issue; the second son, therefore, obtained the property. He had issue 1st. Gilbert baron of Hedendon, who married Egeline daughter of Reginald de Courtney, by whom she had issue Eustachia, wife of Richard de Camville, 2. Thomas who had the barony of Hedendon, and married Philip, daughter and heir of William de Malbane, by whom he had Thomas, baron of Hedendon, who died S. P. Philippa who married Henry of Newborough earl of Warwick; Joan, wife of Reginald de Valletort, and Alice wife of John Bassett, who had several children, 3. Alan, Basset, who by Alice had

1. William Basset of Pilkington in Oxfordshire, who married Isabel, daughter of William Ferrers, earl of Derby, SP.
2. Fulco Bassett, bishop of London, who died 44. Henry III.
3. Philip, baron of Wycombe in Bucks, and lord chief Justice of England, married Hawise, daughter of John Grey, of Eaton, and left issue a daughter and heir, Alice wife of Hugh le Despenser, lord chief Justice of England, who was slain at the battle of Evesham, 9 Henry III.
4. Thomas Bassett, who died without issue.
5. William, died 18 Henry III.
6. Alice, wife of Sir John Samford, patron of the priory of Blakmore.

* *Erdeswicke's Staffordshire*, Harl. MSS. 1990, p. 86.

Blakmore. 7. ——— wife of Drogo de Montacute, widow of ——— Talbot.

Richard, lord of Weldon, Co. Northton, who married *Maud Ridell*.

Nicholas, who held in Turkenden and elsewhere, of the honour of Wallingford, and whose sons forfeited all to king Henry II.

Thurstan Bassett.

Richard Bassett, third son before mentioned, married Maud, daughter and heir of Sir Geffry Ridell, lord of Wettering, died 18 Henry II. leaving issue Hugh de Ridell, lord of Wettering, whose son Richard was father of Hugh de Ridell, lord of Wettering who released to Ralph lord Bassett of Weldon, all the right which he had unto lands, which were sometime Richard Bassett's, and Geffrey Ridell's his son:

II. Richard Bassett to whom his mother gave the barony of Weldon, Co. Northton 1 king John 1199, father of Ralph lord Bassett, who died 42 Henry III. father of Richard, who died 4 Edward I. father of Ralph lord Bassett, who died 15 Edward III. father of Eleanor, wife of Sir John Knyvet, lord chancellor of England. Of Joan wife of Sir Thomas Aylesbury, and of Ralph lord B. of Weldon, who died 42 Edward III. father of Ralph lord B. of W. father of Ralph, last lord Bassett, who died S. P. 1408, 10 Henry IV. and was succeeded by his two great aunts, Eleanor (from whom the noble family of Knyvet is descended) and Joan lady Aylesbury, as coheirs. Sir Thomas Aylesbury, son of Joan, was father of Sir Thomas, whose daughter and coheir Elizabeth, married Sir Thomas Chaworth, (whence descended Sir George Chaworth, of Wiverton Co. Nott. Knt.) and Eleanor, the other coheir, was wife of Humphrey Stafford of Grafton, whence came the Staffords of Blatherwick.

Ralph Bassett, to whom his father gave Drayton, father of Ralph lord Bassett of Drayton, father of that Ralph who was slain at the battle of Evesham, 50 Henry III. father of

Ralph who died 27 Edward I. father of Ralph lord B. of D. knt. of the Garter, who died 1342, 17 Edward III. father of Sir Ralph, who died V. P. father of Ralph, last lord Bassett, of Drayton, who died issueless, (whose barony afterwards became the property of George earl of Liecester).

William Bassett of Sapcote, who was sheriff of Warwick under Henry I. and Justice itinerant of Lincoln, Nottingham, Derby, Stafford, Warwick, and Northampton 1175, 23 Henry II. to whom Osbertus Bassevinus, gave the manor of Cheadle, Co. Staff. He had issue 1st. Simon lord Bassett of Sapcote. 2. Ralph Bassett, ancestor to those of Cheadle and Blore.

Simon lord Bassett of Sapcote, had issue Ralph lord Bassett of Sapcote, who was summoned in 1266, 51 Henry III. and was father of Robert a younger son, and of Simon Lord B. of S. father of Ralph, lord B. of S. living 1292. (2 Edward I.) father of Simon, lord B. of S. who died before 30 Edward III. father of Ralph last lord Bassett of Sapcote, who died about 3 Richard II. father of Alice, wife of Sir Robert Moton of Penkleton, whence came the *Harringtons*, and of Elizabeth, wife of Richard lord Grey of Codnor.

Ralph, second son of Wm. lord Bassett of Sapcote, was father of Robert a younger son, who held 12 Virgate terre in Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire 1253, 38 Henry III. (and was father of Sir William of Nottingham, father of Sir William Sheriff of Co. Nott. and of John. Edward I. who was father of Robert 1359, 33 Edward III. and of William 1359, and — a third son.) And

Ralph Bassett (son and heir of Ralph second son of William baron of Sapcote,) whom Ralph lord Bassett of Sapcote (his first cousin) gave 62 acres of land in Cheadle to hold of him by a fine 1271, 56 Henry III. He had issue 1st. Sir Ralph Bassett, of Parkhill and Cheadle, knt. who in 1317, (11 Edw. II.) gave all his land to Ralph his son, who was of Parkhill and Cheadle and living 1331 (6 Edw. III.) without issue. 2. John Bassett of Cheadle, 6 Edward II. who left issue,

Sir

Sir John Bassett of Chedle, Knt. 44 Edward III. 6. Henry IV. who married Joan, daughter and heir of Sir Henry Brailesford, Knt. by the sister and heir of Hugh Audley, lord of Blore and Grendon. By her he had issue (beside Edmund his second son, who died S.P. 1439, 8 Henry VI.)

Rafe Bassett of *New Place*, (and Blore) and after of Cheadle, 9 Henry IV. who married Maud, daughter and heir of Thomas Beke, and Alice his first wife who died 9 Henry V. and had issue, Ralph Bassett of Cheadle, and Blore and Grendon, who married Margaret, daughter and sole heir of Sir Reginald De-thick, Knt. (son of William, Treasurer of England) by Thomasine his wife, daughter and coheir of Sir Hugh Meynil, Knt. (who was seised of the manors of Langley, Kingley, Newhall, Hartishorne, and Staunton). She afterwards remarried Nicolas Montgomery son of Sir Nicolas Montgomery, knt. and died 1466. By her first husband she had issue Ciceley, wife of Hugh Erdeswicke, (son of Henry) and William Bassett of Chedle, Blore, and Grendon, and of Langley, Co. Derb. 34 Henry VI. who was father of William Bassett, sheriff of Co. Stafford. 6 Edward IV. who died Nov. 12, 1493. He married Joan daughter and coheir of Richard Byron, son of Sir John, and had issue by her John Bassett eldest son, who married Elinor, daughter and heir of Sir John Aston, S.P. Ralph third son who married Elenor, daughter of Hugh Egerton, of Wrine-hill, and had Margaret his daughter and heir, wife of Sir Ralph Egerton of Ridley (grandfather of lord Chancellor Egerton). Nicolas Bassett, fourth son who married Elinor daughter of Sir Nicolas Montgomery, S. P. 1492. And William Bassett of Langley and Blore, (second but eldest surviving son,) who in 21 Henry VII, gave lands to Rocester Abbey, for the souls of William his father and Joan his mother. He married Elizabeth daughter of Thomas Meverell, the younger of Throwley (remarried to Henry Coleyne) by whom he had Thomas, father of Thomas Bassett of Hintes in Staffordshire, (who married the daughter of Chetwynd, 1583,) and Sir William Bassett, of Blore, Grendon,
and

and Langley (his son and heir) who married 1. Anne, daughter of Thomas Cockayne of Ashburne, Co. Derby, Knt. and 2. Isabel daughter and heir of Sir Richard Cotton, by his third wife Helen, daughter of Thomas Littleton, by whom was Maud wife of Ralph Oakover, of Oakover; but by his first he had Margaret, wife of Richard Copwood of Tokeridge. Thomas Bassett (who married Helen, daughter of Cotes of Wodcote, Salop, and was father of Thomas Bassett of Fald Co. Staff. living in 1583) and William Bassett of Blore, Grendon, and Langley, (his son and heir,) who married Elizabeth daughter of Sir Anthony Fitzherbert of Norbury, knt. and had issue,

William Bassett of Blore and Langley, living 1588, who married Judith, daughter of Thomas Osten of Oxley in Staffordshire, Esq. (widow of William Boothby, ancestor of the Boothbys, of Broadlow Ash, &c. baronets; and, after her second husband's death, remarried to Sir Richard Corbett,) by whom he had issue—Elizabeth his sole daughter and heir, first married to the Hon. Henry Howard, a younger son of the earl of Suffolk; and 2dly to Sir William Cavendish, K. B. afterward duke of Newcastle, to whom she carried this estate, and of whose children she was mother. The Duke's 2nd wife, who wrote his life, says "that when he was 22 years old, his mother was desirous that he should marry, in obedience to whose commands he chose, both to his own liking and his mother's approving, the daughter and heir to William Bassett, of Blore, Esq. a very honourable and ancient family in Staffordshire, by whom was added a great part of his estate."

The ancient mansion of this illustrious family, as we have already observed, is now erased completely from the ground, so that scarcely a vestige of it can be discovered. It was standing, however, in the year 1662, when its windows were adorned by several coats of arms, and other embellishments.

The church of Blore is a small edifice, mean in its exterior architecture, but possessing, in the interior, considerable re-

mains of former embellishment, particularly memorials of the illustrious family of the Bassetts, which are, however, rapidly approaching to complete ruin. A few broken fragments of painted arms alone are now remaining in the windows, though in 1863 there was a great number very elegantly executed.

In one of the south windows was the picture of William Bassett, in his surcoat of arms, with the arms of *Cockayne*, quartered with *Herthull* on her mantle, kneeling before a crucifix. Below is the following in old English letters :

"ORATE PRO BONQ STATU WILLIELMI BASSETT ARMIGERI ET ANNE UXORIS EJUS, QUI ISTAM FENESTRAM FIERI FECERUNT, ET ISTAM CANCELLARIAM REEDIFICAVERUNT ANNO DOMINI MDXIX."

The same inscription, under a different coat of arms, was placed at the bottom of the east window ; and at the bottom of the east window of the north aisle, was the picture of William Bassett, Esq. and Joan his wife ; he in his surcoat of arms, and she with the arms of *Biron* on her mantle, both kneeling before Sir William, with this scroll on their lips, in old English letters :

"O SANCTE WILLIELME, ORA PRO ME."

A flat stone of marble lying in the north aisle, on which were the portraitures in brass, of a man and his wife, there was formerly the following inscription, in old English letters, mutilated fragments of which still remain :

"ORATE PRO ANIMABUS WILLIELMI BASSETT ARMIGERI, DOMINI DE BLORE ET LANGLEY ET JOANNE UXORIS EJUS UNIVS FILIARUM ET HEREDUM RICARDI BURY ARMIGERI FILII ET HEREDIS JOHANNIS BURY MILITIS. QUI QUIDEM WILLIELMUS OBIT XII DIE MENSIS NOV. ANNO DNI MILLIMO DLXXXVIII, ET EADEM JOANNA OBIT DIE MENSIS ANO. DNI QUORUM ANIMABUS PROPITHEUR DEUS. AMEN."

But the object most worthy of attention in this church, is a noble altar tomb of statuary marble, which stands at the upper end of the north aisle, inclosed within an iron rail. On this monument are three figures, each of them in a recumbent posture. Two of them lie together on a mattress, the one a gentleman in complete armour, and the other a lady, dressed according to the fashion of the age in which she lived. The third figure is placed on a slab, about a foot higher than these, and represents an older man, also in armour. Two females appear kneeling at the heads of the two lower figures, both habited in beautiful flowing Vandyke costume, with girdles, pointed handkerchiefs, and easy veils over their faces. One of these ladies is in the bloom of youth and beauty, but the other is considerably older. A variety of coats of arms, and other ornaments, formerly served to beautify this elegant monument, which unhappily has been suffered to fall to decay. The following is the only inscription now upon it:

“EPITAPH.

“Here lyes a courtier, souldier, handsome good,
 Witty, wise, valiant, and of pure blood
 From William's conquest, and his potent sword
 In the same type (full) many a noble Lord,
 That time hath lost in paying thus Death's debt,
 In this unparallell'd William Bassett,
 But thy high virtues with thy aptient name
 Shall ever swell the cheeks of glorious fame.”

The church is a very neat Gothic structure, on the paddock, which is well stocked with deer, and altogether affords an example of peaceful industry and happiness, not often to be observed, even in places more apparently calculated to encourage the one, and inspire the other. The plantations are rapidly advancing, and the oak rising to a venerable perfection.

Almost immediately adjoining Okeover, to be noticed shortly, is the parish of

ILAM,

Containing about thirty houses, and two hundred inhabitants. This place exhibits one of the most solemn and romantic pieces of picturesque scenery in the whole county, perhaps in any other part of Great Britain. It has been observed that, the seat of Mr. Clive, (the property of John Port, Esq.) "suggests the idea of a glen in the Alps." Here the two rivers, the *Hamps* and *Manyfold*, rise from under the limestone hills, under which they run for several miles, in separate streams. That these rivers during their subterraneous passage run in distinct streams, has been demonstrated by throwing pieces of cork wood into the streams above. The steep and lofty precipices, surrounding the valley of Ilam, and forming an entire amphitheatre, are nearly covered with oak, and other wood; and the pleasure-walks from the seat on one side of these precipices are wonderfully romantic and various. These walks, resembling shelves, are almost perpendicularly above another; by the side of which, nature, with scarcely any assistance from art, has furnished a profusion of flowers of no contemptible appearance; amongst others, native geraniums of different sorts, particularly the *Robertianum*, also the *centaurea scabiosa*, and many other showy natives. In a meadow over the water, the ramson, (*allium ursinum*,) a very gaudy flower, but no very desirable pasture plant, flourishes in profusion. The subterraneous rivers here are very considerable, at least equalling the *Dove*. In a limestone grotto, and elsewhere, there are several specimens of what are exhibited as petrified fish. These are, however, broken irregular fragments of chert embodied in the limestone rock, when in a fluid state, which, swelling out towards the middle, bear some resemblance

semblance to fish, and as the limestone is softer than the chert, most of these fragments project. Three or four good specimens of these are shown to those who visit *Ilam*, at the confluxes of the two rivers, where, by being much trodden upon, they project more than in some other other places.* These real or imaginary specimens of extraneous fossils have an appearance, in some instances, of having been originally fish of the carp or barbel kind; but it must be confessed, that the aid of a pretty strong imagination is requisite in coming to a conclusion, that they are in reality genuine animal petrifications. It is well known that even the most perfect petrifications rarely exhibit a complete substitution of mineral for organic matter. The original substance, whether animal or vegetable, in a greater or a lesser degree, is observable perhaps in every instance, either in the external or internal parts of the fossil. In shells and coral petrifications, the original calcareous matter is frequently seen covering the surface, or remaining in small portions in the internal parts,† and is readily distinguished, although the substituted mineral, forming the principal portion of the fossil, be also calcareous.‡

It is also worthy of being remarked, in connection with these

Q q q 3

supposed

* Ap. Pitt. Agr. Sur.

† There is a remarkable specimen of petrified coral described in the late excellent and ingenious Mr. Martin's "*Derbyshire Petrifications*," Plate XVIII. Fig. 4, 3. See also the same author's "*Outlines of an Attempt to establish a knowledge of Extraneous Fossils on Scientific Principles*," p. 11. I cannot let this opportunity escape me without expressing my extreme regret, in common with every other friend of his, and of Science, that Mr. Martin should have been snatched away at a period when his labours, (and his were labours indeed,) and his merits, were only beginning to be known to the public, in defiance of those obstacles, which an almost invincible diffidence and modesty, and a thousand disadvantages of a local and private nature, raised to prevent them. In the author of "*Petrifactions Derbyshire*" his friends have lost a most agreeable and faithful companion, and science an useful and indefatigable labourer.

‡ Vide Parkinson's *Organic Remains*, p. 314.

supposed petrifications at *Ilam*, that fish, of all other organized animal bodies, are most apt to lose their recent or primitive form and texture: little more, generally, than the detached bones are preserved, as the vertebræ, teeth, &c. Sometimes, indeed, they exhibit the complete external appearance of their original, as those formed in *Thuringia*, in a bituminous marlite. But of those discovered in *limestone* strata, as in the slaty beds of *Monte Bolca*, *Pappenheim*, and elsewhere, only the skeletons remain.*

Though the remark does not immediately apply to petrified fish, it may be worth while to observe, as it may tend to moderate our faith, with regard to many equally fanciful specimens, that the fossil *Butterflies*, *Beetles*, &c. so pompously described by some authors, particularly by Richardson in his Letter on this subject to Lhwyd, are nothing more than some imperfect vegetable remains.† Linnæus thought better of his *Entomolithus coleoptri*, which, though he noticed it in the *Museum Tessinianum*, he did not mention it among the *Entomolithi*, in the latest edition of his *Systema Naturæ*; It should just be mentioned.

* Mart. Ext. Foss. 80.

† Lithop. Brit. Luidii, p. 112.

‡ The origin of petrifications has afforded a subject for much speculation among the learned. About the beginning of the last century, the writings of our English Naturalists were filled with disputes and contradictory opinions on this head; many esteeming these productions to be mere *lusus naturæ*, while others ascribed their formation to an imaginary plastic power of the earth, by which it was contended, stones, and other fossil substances, with the regular form of animals and vegetables, might be generated. Another singular theory of the time, proposed to explain the origin of these bodies, was that of the learned and ingenious Lhwyd, who supposed extraneous fossils to be generated by seeds and spawn taken up in vapour, and, after being precipitated in rain, deposited by the precolating water, in the crevices and fissures of the earth.—Here, according to this hypothesis, meeting with a proper matrix, the seminal particles gradually expand, and produce fossil bodies, in form resembling the parent animals or vegetables. These fanciful theories were opposed by several philosophers of the same period, who maintained

mentioned that the specimens at *Ilam*, exhibit not the skeleton only, but are thought by some to represent the entire substance of the prototype.

The subterraneous rivers just noticed; after bursting up here, form two very fine cascades. From these pleasure grounds we view a very bold and romantic prospect of two hills, called *Thorpe Cloud*, and *Bunster*, on either side the *Dove*. The latter only is in this county: *Thorpe Cloud* being in Derbyshire. *Bunster* is one immense heap of limestone, covered with a light earth, and is amply stocked with rabbits. The highest summit of this hill is estimated at 300 yards perpendicularly from the *Dove*, and the fall of the *Dove* from hence to *Trus*; 100 yards more. It is not, however, so high as the *Weaver*.

Ilam parish is also noted for the tomb, well, and ash, of St *Bertram*, who is said to have confirmed the truth of his religious faith by many stupendous miracles in this county. The sacred ash was formerly much venerated, and taken great care of by the common people, who had a notion that it was highly dangerous to break a bough of it. Little, however, is now thought of either the saint, or his tomb and well. This would have been less to be regretted, if, with our contempt of his supposed superstitions, we had not, in the effulgence of our superior light, lost sight of, and learned also to despise, his super-eminent virtues, piety, and devotion. Opinions may become obsolete, religion never can; and it is always much easier to laugh at goodness, than to practise the self-denial, which is essential to its existence.

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maintained that these classes of fossils, were real organic bodies petrified; or at least stones, moulded in cavities, previously filled by animal or vegetable matter. This latter opinion is now the prevailing one. For information on this interesting subject, see the works of *Ray*, *Hook*, *Lhwyd*, *Woodward*, *Lister*, *Plott*, *Morton*, *Leigh*, &c. And, for still more satisfactory information, *Parkinson*, and *Martin*, already quoted. Dr. *Townson*, in his *Philosophy of Mineralogy*, has an ingenious chapter on this subject. Chap. VIII. p. 140; et seq.

In a grotto, near this place, the celebrated *Congreve*, who, in his time, was considered as the prop of the declining stage, and as the rising genius in Dramatic poesy,* wrote his first and best comedy, of the *Old Bachelor*. Mr. Congreve retired to this place, after his return from Ireland, and thus amused himself, during a slow recovery from a severe fit of sickness, with which he was seized about three years after his return to England.† If these barren wastes had been as cold, dreary, and uncomfortable, as some have described them to be, this sensible and ingenious poet would hardly have made choice of them, for such a double purpose, of recovery from sickness ‡ and the composition of a comedy, and that his first dramatic effort. Of which comedy Dryden said, it was the best first play he ever saw. Mr. Pitt remarks on this situation, that "it is very advantageous for composing: the shady bower above, the murmuring stream below, the recluse and retired situation, without the reach or hearing of noisy intruders, all conspire to fix the mind upon its individual object, and enable it to send forth an effusion of its collected powers." But few of our present dramatic writers either enjoy or need such helps to composition as these. The vicious taste of modern times may more easily be gratified in the neighbourhood of horses and pageantry, and where paint, tinsel, and stage mechanists, may readily be procured: "murmuring streams," and "shady bowers," may well enough be dispensed with: for such plays as the *Old Bachelor* are but seldom called for.

Mr. Gough, for what reason does not appear, probably through mistake, places *Ilam* in Derbyshire.§

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* Memoirs of William Congreve, Esq. by Charles Wilson, p. 3.

† Biographia Brit. Vol. IV. art. Congreve.

‡ Amendments of Mr. Collier's Faults and imperfect citations, &c. from the *Old Bachelor*, *Double Dealer*, *Love for Love*, *Mourning Bride*. By the author of those Plays, p. 40.

§ Gough's Camden, II. p. 417.

Okeover parish, with the small hamlet, of the same name, is remarkable chiefly for the barrows of Hallsteds and Arbourclose in the neighbourhood. These tumuli Dr. Plot, as we have already noticed,* believed to have been originally formed of earth, which, by a subterranean heat, have been converted into stone. Against this conjecture there are several insuperable objections; and with respect to these barrows in particular there is one that must entirely destroy all such conclusions. If they had been formed of one solid rock, like those of *Barrow Hill* on *Ashwood Heath*, less objection could have been made to Plot's hypothesis. These tumuli, on the contrary, are composed of different pieces of stone, piled one upon another; Salmon remarks, on this opinion of Plot's, that we have no parallel instances of such an effect of subterraneous heat; and asks, how should a subterraneous heat have been confined to so small and regular a compass? And why should not this heat rather consume the earth than petrify it? why should it not have petrified also the bordering earth? More probably, he continues, it is that they were originally stone, a heap made up by a body of men, or an army, every man carrying a single stone. These, in time, may have been concreted into a kind of rock, by the property of some stone, assimilating the earth that is contiguous. We see the same fields yield plenty of stones, though they are every year picked for the highway. We find oyster-shells in other fields, with a stony crust adhering to a considerable thickness. In our eldest histories we read of piles of stones, heaped over a malefactor, and for other memorials. These might be turfed on the outside for beauty, and the earth that fell into the interstices might be consolidated. We find some of a mixt nature, friable, approaching as near to earth as to stone.† These observations are made principally on the tumuli of *Ashford Heath*, but they will apply with equal force to those of *Okeover*. They are

* Vide ante, p. 848.

† Salmon's Survey, p. 525, 526.

" Her husband soon followed,

Jan. 31. 1765, aged 63.

" Thrice happy pair, in nuptial love so tied,
Whom death but for a moment could divide ;
Knowing this world is not our proper home,
Their wish was for that happier world to come.

" *Scripsit Amicus et Medicus,*
Dom. Gulielmus Browne, Egnes Auratus."

At some place in this neighbourhood, but where exactly, is not known, was born John Dudley baron of Malpas, viscount L'Isle, earl of Warwick, and duke of Northumberland, in 1502. He was the son of Edmund Dudley, who was beheaded at the commencement of the reign of Henry the eighth, on account of his oppressions, while in the service of king Henry the seventh. As this execution took place, rather with a view to satisfy the people than justice, the friends of his son found no difficulty, in obtaining a reversal of his father's attainder, and his own restoration to blood. Having been educated in a style suitable to his rank, he was introduced at court in 1523, where his fine person and elegant manners soon rendered him universally admired. Shortly after this occurrence, he accompanied Charles Brandon, duke of Suffolk, in his expedition to France, and distinguished himself so much by his gallant conduct, that he obtained the honour of knighthood. When Cardinal Wolsey came into favour, he attached himself to that prelate, and accompanied him during his embassy to the French court. After his downfall, Sir John insinuated himself into the confidence of his successor Lord Cromwell, enjoying amidst the various changes of men, and measures so prevalent in the reign of Henry VIII. the good graces of all, and the constant regard of his sovereign. In the year 1542 he was elected a knight of the most noble order of the Garter, and was elevated to the dignity of an English peer, by the title of Viscount Lisle. Not long
after

after this, he received the appointment of lord high Admiral of the kingdom for life, in which important station he performed many great and signal services. Henry likewise bestowed upon him a vast extent of the lands, rested by him from the church, and at his demise named him in his will, one of his sixteen executors. The duke of Somerset, however, the young king's Uncle, disregarding this will, procured himself to be declared protector of the kingdom, and set on foot a number of projects for his own aggrandizement. Among the first, was an attempt to get his brother, Sir John Seymour, made lord high Admiral, in which he proved successful, the lord L'Isle, of necessity, agreeing to resign upon the condition of being created earl of Warwick, and made great Chamberlain. This happened in February 1547; and in the same year, serious insurrections having broken out in different districts of the kingdom, his Lordship was sent to quell that in Norfolk, under Robert Ket, a tanner, whose army consisted of upwards of ten thousand men. In the first engagement he defeated them with the loss of one thousand men, and was on the point of coming to a second, when he sent them a message, that "he was sorry to see so much courage expressed in so bad a cause, and that notwithstanding what was past, they might depend on the king's pardon, on delivering up their leaders;" to this message they replied that, "he was a nobleman of so much worth and generosity, that, if they might have this assurance from his own mouth, they were willing to submit." The Earl accordingly went among them, upon which they threw down their arms, and delivered up Robert Ket and his brother William, both of whom were executed. In the year following this event, Sir Thomas Seymour, having been attainted and executed for strange practices against his brother, and the protector now in the tower, Lord Warwick was once more appointed lord high Admiral, with very extensive powers. At this time so much was he in favour with the king and the lords of the council, that nothing of importance was transacted with-

out

out his advice; to which circumstance may be attributed the release of the duke of Somerset from the tower, and his restoration to some degree of power and favour. This conduct much pleased the king, who, in order to cement strongly the bonds of friendship between these two great men, proposed a marriage between lord Warwick's eldest son and the Duke's daughter, which was solemnized in his Majesty's presence, on the 3rd of June, 1550. The following year, lord Warwick was constituted earl-marshal of England, lord Warden of the marches, and duke of Northumberland. In the beginning of the year 1552, the duke of Somerset was tried, condemned, and executed, for a conspiracy against his life, whereupon he succeeded him as chancellor of Cambridge. The duke of Northumberland had now reached the highest summit of dignity and power allowed to a subject by the constitution of England. Such indeed was his ascendancy over the young monarch, that he ruled him according to his pleasure.

Most of the great nobility were attached to his interests, and such as opposed him were so humbled and depressed, that he seemed to have every thing to hope, and nothing to fear. And this indeed, upon good grounds, while that king lived; but when he discerned his Majesty's health begin to decline, he found it necessary to consider, in what manner he might secure himself and family. He proposed and concluded a marriage between his fourth son lord Guilford Dudley, and lady Jane Grey, eldest daughter of the duke of Suffolk, which was celebrated about two months before the king's death. He had been for some time contriving that plan for the disposal of the kingdom, which he some time after carried into execution. In the Parliament, held shortly before the death of the king, he procured a considerable supply to be granted; and, in the preamble of the act, inserted a direct censure on the administration of the duke of Somerset. Then dissolving the Parliament, he applied himself to the king, and pointed out to him the

the necessity of setting aside the claims of the princess Mary to the throne, on account of the dangers that might ensue to the Protestant establishment, from the religious principles she had embraced.

The young Monarch was easily prevailed upon to give countenance to this deviation from hereditary succession, being himself warmly zealous in the Protestant cause. But though this step was effected, there yet remained another difficulty. The next heir was the duchess of Suffolk, who might have sons; and it seemed, therefore, unjust to exclude them in favour of her daughter. It so happened, however, that the Duchess herself forwarded the plans of the Duke, by giving up her right to that lady, and with this renunciation the king was satisfied. Application was now made to the judges for their consent, which, after much hesitation, arising from their sense of the illegality of the measure, was ultimately obtained.

Upon the death of Edward, the duke was anxious to conceal the event for some time; but, finding that impracticable, he immediately carried his daughter-in-law, the lady Jane, to the Tower for greater security, and had her proclaimed Queen on the 10th July 1553. The council now wrote to the lady Mary, requiring her submission; but they were soon informed that, instead of complying, she had retired into the North, where many of the nobility, and vast numbers of the people, resorted to her standard. It was then determined to send forces to compel her acquiescence to the actual dynasty, and the command of these was to be confided to the duke of Suffolk. The queen, however, would not be prevailed upon to part with her father; and the council, therefore, earnestly urged the duke of Northumberland to go in person; but to this he was extremely unwilling, entertaining some well founded suspicions of their fidelity. However, he marched on the 14th of July, with an army of eight thousand men, and advanced as far as St. Edmund's-bury in Suffolk, where finding

his troops every day diminishing, and no supplies afforded from London, he retired back to Cambridge. The council in the meantime having got out of the tower, recognized the title of Mary, and proclaimed her queen. This being quickly made known to the duke, he also had her proclaimed at Cambridge, throwing up his cap, and exclaiming, "God save queen Mary." All this show of loyalty, however, was of no avail to him, for no sooner was that princess seated on her throne, than he was apprehended, tried, and condemned; and was accordingly executed on Towerhill, on the 22d of August; having first meanly condescended to abjure his religion, under the hope of obtaining a pardon, and being restored to favour.

Such was the end of one of the most powerful noblemen England has seen in modern times. To doubt the superiority of his talents, considering the rank from which he rose, and the age in which he lived, would be manifestly absurd. The integrity of his character will better admit of question. Indeed it must be admitted, that his great and good qualities were much overbalanced by his vices. He left a numerous issue, of whom Ambrose, and Dudley, became distinguished persons. Guilford lost his life, as well as his unfortunate lady, on the scaffold, for his father's ambition and indiscretion, and to satisfy the vengeance of the bloody queen, whose reign, happily of short duration, has fixed an indelible stigma on the English throne.*

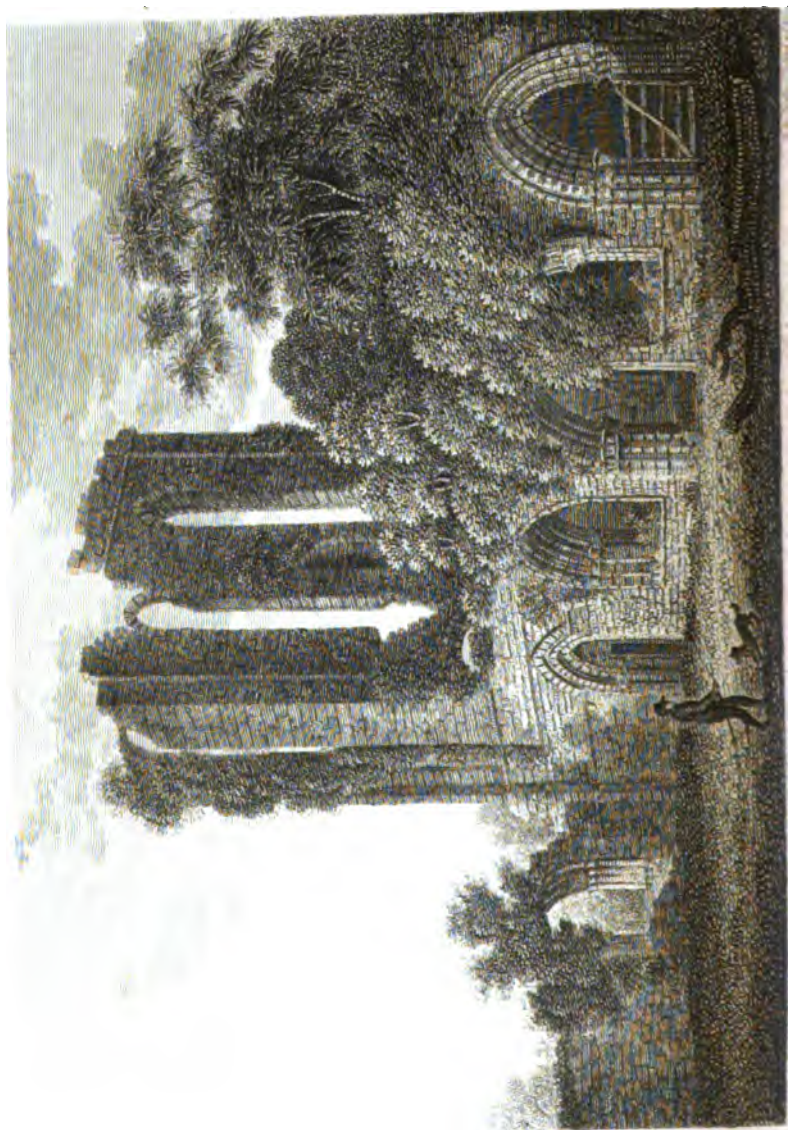
Returning in a southern direction, towards the neighbourhood of Uttoxeter, from which highly important and interesting objects had diverted us, we notice the parish of

CROXDEN,

Five miles from Uttoxeter. This parish contains about fifty
houses

* Biog. Brit. Plot. Hist. Stafford.





CROIX DE LA CLAYE.
AUVERGNE.

houses, and three hundred inhabitants. There is nothing remarkable here, besides the venerable ruins of its once extensive *Abbey*. Bertram de Verdon, in 1176, gave the Cistercian monks of Aulney in Normandy, a piece of ground, at Chotes or Chqtene, to build an Abbey of their order. In three years this was removed to Croxden;* where all the family of the Verdon were afterwards buried, as was also the heart of king John.† The remains of this abbey are in a narrow valley, watered by a small rivulet, which supplied a mill formerly in the precincts. The west end of the church, the south wall transept, part of the cloister, the outer walls of the chapter house, and some parts of the offices, may still be traced. The whole, in a style of architecture corresponding with the date of its foundation;‡ the windows being lancet-shaped; and the capitals of the columns foliated. In the garden of one of the farm-houses is still preserved a stone cross, about three feet in length, ending in foliage at the points; and having a crucifix rudely sculptured on one side; and a Virgin, which is now scarcely distinguishable, on the other. It was found near the east end of the church; and though the sculpture, in most places, is almost obliterated, yet traces of gilding were observable, in one or two places, when it was first discovered. The permanency of this kind of stone gilding is

Vol. XIII.

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* Bp. Turner's Not. 498. Mag. Brit. 148, in Gough's Camden, II. 515.

† This singularly unfortunate, and it must be confessed, in many respects, much misrepresented king, died at *Swinshead Abbey*, in Lincolnshire; his body was interred at *Worcester*; his bowels in *Croxton Abbey church*, in Leicestershire, the abbot being his physician; and his heart here at *Croxden*. (See Nichol's Hist. of Leicestershire, Vol. II. p. 149, and Gough's Camden, Vol. II. p. 515.) This was certainly making the most of the poor fallen Monarch! Perhaps the most precious portion of his relics would be the hand that signed *Magna Charta*. Croxden may be welcome to the heart, which reluctantly, perhaps never cheerfully, consented to the glorious deed.

‡ Dr. Richard Rawlinson engraved the foundation charter of this abbey in his possession. Dr. Rawlinson died in 1755.

truly astonishing. On a stone chimney-piece, in *Crosby Hall*, *Crosby Square*, Bishopsgate St. London, now occupied by the extensive warehouses of Messrs. Holmes and Hall,* there are still visible considerable portions of gilding. The ignorant curiosity of the workmen demolished many parts of it; till their depredations were discovered, and prevented by the son of their employer. *Crosby Hall*, or *Crosby House*, was built by Sir John Crosbie, who was sheriff, in 1470. It is, therefore, not so old as Croxden abbey, by nearly three-hundred years.

The parish Church, or *Chapel*, of Croxden, is a small building, whose style of architecture indicates its age to be coeval with the foundation of the abbey. It is valued at 19*l.* in the King's books; and its patron is the earl of Macclesfield, to whom the estate belongs. The abbey, at the rapacious Dissolution, was valued at 90*l.* 5*s.* 11*d.*† per annum. It is said, that Cromwell, the hypocrite, destroyed this abbey. Several coffins, having no inscriptions, have been dug up here.

Near this place are two hamlets, named *Upper* and *Lower Team*, both in the parish of *Checkley*, already noticed. Between these two hamlets is a spring of a somewhat singular character. It is denominated *The Well in the Wall*, as it rises under a rock. It is said, but with what truth, may fairly be disputed, that this "unaccountable spring throws out, all the year round, except in July and August, small bones, of different sorts, like those of sparrows, or small chickens."‡ *Team* has an extensive rope manufactory.

CARES WELL,

* The name of this latter gentleman it becomes the writer of this never to repeat, or to write, but with a feeling of the most sincere and ardent respect and esteem.

† According to Dugdale. Speed says, 103*l.* 6*s.* 5*d.*

‡ England's Gazetteer, 2nd Ed. 1778. Vol. II. art. *Team*.

CARES WELL,

Or, as it is sometimes written *Caverwell*, is a parish three miles west of Cheadle, containing about 150 houses, and 800 inhabitants. It is a vicarage, valued in the King's books at 7*l.* 5*s.* 5*d.* Towards the latter end of the reign of Edward II. Sir William de Careswell, built a large and uncommonly strong stone *Castle*, at this place, and surrounded it by extensive ponds, and a deep mote, with a draw-bridge. The heads of the ponds had square turrets, for farther defence of the place. It was, for a long time, the chief seat of the ancient and noble family of the Vanes, now extinct. The old *Magna Britannia* gives the following account of this castle: "Careswell, or Caverswell, was, 20 Conq. held of Robert de Stafford, by Ernulph de Heding, but hath long been the lordship of a family of that name, antient and gentile, descended probably from him; for, in the reign of Richard the First, one Thomas de Careswell, knight, whose grandson, William de Careswell, erected a goodly castle in this place; the pools, dams, and houses of office, being all masonry. His posterity enjoyed it till the 19th of Edward the Third, when, by the heir-general, it passed from the Careswells to the Montgomeries, and from them by the Giffords and Ports, to the family of Hastings, earls of Huntingdon, who were owners of it in the last century, [the 17th,] and, as we suppose, are still. The castle, in the beginning of that century, was in reasonable good repair; but was suffered to run into decay (if not ruined on purpose) by one Brown, the farmer of the lands about it, lest his lord should be at any time in the mind to live there, and take the demesne from him. It hath been since sold to Matthew Cradock, Esq. in whose posterity it was in 1655, but is since come to Captain Packer."* This Matthew Cradock was the son of George Cradock of Stafford, a wool-merchant, who was clerk of the

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* *Magna Brit. in loc.*

assize of this circuit.* He built a good house on the part of the site of the castle. Of this House Plot,† and Mr. Grose have both given engraved views. It was after this place had passed out of the hands of the Cradocks, that it became the property of William Viscount Vane, of Ireland, who possessed it in right of his mother, the daughter and coheir of Sir William Jolliffe, knt. who married Mary, daughter of Ferdinando, the sixth earl of Huntingdon.‡ It is now the property of the Hon. Booth Grey, brother of the earl of Stamford. Leland § calls it "the castle or prati pile of *Caucerwell*."

In *Careswell Church* is a monument, erected to the memory of William de Careswell, the builder of the castle. It bears the following inscription :

"Willielmus de Careswellis :"

This is at the head. Surrounding it is this distich :

"Castri structor eram, domibus, fossisq; cemento.

"Vivis dans operam, nunc claudor in hoc monumento."

Anglice :

"I built this Castle, with its rampiers round,

"For the use of th' living, who am under ground."

According to Erdeswicke, the following lines were subsequently written on this monument :

"William of Careswell, her Iye I,

"That built this castle, and pooles hereby.

"William of Careswell here thou mayest Iye ;

"But thy castle is down, and thy pooles are dry."¶

It has been thought, that this latter portion of the stanza was written to excite the attention of the owner of the castle.

to

* Holland's Camden. Degge MS. N. on Plot, p. 448. Erdeswicke, p. 86. apud Gough's Camd. II. 507.

† Nat. Hist. Staff. Pl. XXXVII.

‡ Sir E. Brydges's Collins's Peerage, Vol. VI. p. 660.

§ It. VII. 36.

¶ Mag. Brit. V. p. 99.

to its ruinous state, and to induce him to notice the rapacious conduct of his tenant Brown. The former portion, it will be observed, is an imperfect translation of the original Latin epitaph.

To the east, a little beyond *Cheadle*, about three miles, is the parish of

ALVETON,

Sometimes called *Alton*. It contains about 160 houses, and 800 inhabitants.

The church is a vicarage, whose patron is R. Williamson, Esq. The village is a pleasant and agreeable place; but its chief ornament consists of the ruins of a *Castle*, which in the reign of Henry II. belonged to Bertram de Verdon; from whom it devolved, with other estates,* to the Furnivalls, afterwards to the Nevills, and from them to the Talbots. It now belongs to the earl of Shrewsbury. It was destroyed by that religious Vandal, Oliver Cromwell. The present remains consist of fragments of the outer wall, of considerable thickness, round a small court. These fragments stand on the natural perpendicular rock,† towards the small river *Churnet*. The ground to the water's edge descends with a very steep declivity. Below is a small mill to draw iron wire, and a little further down the river there is a cotton mill. The land opposite the castle is equal in height with the *Castle Hill*; and not more than 100 yards distant.‡ The valley here has every appearance, like many others in this neighbourhood, and various parts of Derbyshire, of being made by some violent convulsion of the earth: probably by the great deluge of the Scripture. The true date of the foundation of Alveton Castle cannot now be ascertained;

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but

* The manor belonging to this family contained no less than ten, some say fifteen, villages.

† MS. *pears me*.

‡ MS. *Ubi supra*.

but it is supposed to have been built soon after the Conquest. Dr. Plot* says, that "quickly after the beginning of Edward II. *Alton Castle* seems to have been built, by Theobald de Verdun, as may pretty plainly be collected from the *Annals of Crowden*." The prodigious thickness of the walls shew it to have been a most magnificent and stately edifice. There is a view of these ruins, as they appeared in 1769, in the Description of England and Wales.†

Bradley is a parish, a little to the north-west of *Cheadle*. There is a chapel here, which is a curacy. There are not more than twenty houses, nor than eighty or ninety inhabitants.

Draycott is a parish in the same neighbourhood, containing about ninety houses, and 500 inhabitants. The church living is a rectory, valued, in the king's books, at 9*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.* In the church-yard there is one of those pyramidal stones which the Danes are said to have set up as funeral monuments of their most remarkable men. This method of erecting some memento of those who in their lives have been dear to us is very pleasing; and might, if carried to a greater extent, and not confined to warriors and heroes, have a good moral effect. ‡

Hales Hall, a little to the north-east of *Cheadle*, is the seat of N. Kirkman, Esq. It was built by the grand-daughter of Sir Matthew Hale, and was so named in honour of his memory.

Rocester parish, four miles from *Uttoxeter*, contains about 170 houses, and 900 inhabitants. At this place there was formerly an *Abbey*, for black canons, founded and endowed by Richard Bacon, in 1146; and at the dissolution was valued at
100*l.*

* P. 448.

† Vol. VIII. p. 221.

‡ See Mr. Godwin's last singular, but withal pleasing, little work, *An Essay on Sepulchres*. A book though many times less, is one hundred times better, than his *Political Justice*, now happily forgotten, with the system it was intended to have introduced,

100*l.* per annum.* This monastery of regular canons was of the order of St Augustine, and was dedicated to the blessed Virgin. Bacon was nephew to Ranulph, earl of Chester. He granted the Abbey to R. Trentham; and these possessions were confirmed by Henry III. in the thirteenth year of his reign. At the suppression it had nine religious houses attached to it.†

There are now no remains whatever of this monastery. ‡

The church is a small modern structure, standing in the middle of a field, in which there is a tall slender shaft of a cross, having the edges rounded, yet not itself perfectly cylindrical. Fret-work runs up each side of it. In an out-house, nearly adjoining, there is a tapering stone ornamented with something like a cross, with tri-foliated ends. It is about three feet in length. To what these remains belonged cannot now be exactly ascertained; and having no inscriptions, nor peculiarity of sculpture, do not give any information of their age or former appropriation.

In the church there are several monuments of the Stafford family. § There is a very extensive cotton manufactory here, belonging to Mr. Arkwright.

At no great distance from this place, yet not in this hundred, is a small place, called *Fald*, or *Fauld*, which we notice only

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for

* Bp. Tanner Not. p. 496. Dugdale says 100*l.* 2*s.* 10*d.* and Speed upwards of 111*l.*

† Speed mentions only eight "Houses of Religion," in the whole county (viz.) "Leichfield, Stafford, De la' Crosse, Crudden, Trentham, Burton, Tamworth, and Woulverhampton. These votaries," he adds, "abasing their founders true pieties, and heaping up riches with disdain of the Laity, laid themselves open as markes to be shot at; whom the hand of the skillfull soon hit and quite pierced, vnder the aime of king Henry the eighth, who with such Revenues in most places releevd the poore and the orphane, with schooles and maintenances for the training up of youth: a work, no doubt more acceptable to God, and of more charitable use to the land." *Theatre of Great Britain*. Book I. chap. 36, fol. 69.

‡ MS. penes me.

§ Mag. Brit. p. 108. Gough's Camd. II. p. 517.

for the sake of mentioning the celebrated author of the *Anatomy of Melancholy*, who, according to Dr. Plot,* was born here. That writer's words are : "Robert Burton† is generally believed, by the inhabitants thereabout, to be born at *Fald* in this county, where I was shewn the very house, (as they say) of his nativity. And William Burton, in the selvedge of his picture, before his description of Leicestershire, owns himself of *Fald* in this county, though Anthony à Wood says, they were born at *Lindley* in the county of Leicester.‡" *Fald*, is a pleasant village, but very small ; it is very near *Tutbury*, already described, and ought to have been mentioned sooner in this work.

Bramshall is a small parish near *Uttoxeter*, containing between thirty and forty houses and 200 inhabitants. It is a rectory, under the patronage of lord Willoughby de Broke, value 4*l.* 3*s.* 9*d.* §

Proceeding from hence, in a northern direction, along the borders of Derbyshire, we again pass *Rocester*, just mentioned, and reach *Denston*, a small hamlet, in the parish of *Alveton*, containing about 200 inhabitants ; having also passed *Croighton*, another hamlet, about the same size. From *Denston* we proceed to *Prestwood*, a small hamlet ; and from thence to *Ellaston*, six miles from *Uttoxeter*, containing seventy houses, and 300 inhabitants. The living here is a vicarage, whose patrons are *W. D. Bromley*, and *D. Davenport*, Esqrs.

Crossing the country, in a south-west direction, passing *Alveton*, *Bradley*, *Croxden*, *Cheadle*, and *Checkley*, we arrive at the parish of *Leigh*, containing nearly 200 houses, and 850 inhabitants. It is a rectory under the patronage of lord Bagot. Mr. Palmer, the rector of this place, planted an apple-tree here,
from

* P. 276.

† Mr. Gough, Additions to Camden, Vol. II. p. 305, calls him *Thomas Burton*.

‡ Vide "BEAUTIES," Vol. IX. in Leicestershire.

§ Carlisle's Topographical Dictionary.

from which, according to Dr. Plot,* he lived to gather 16 strikes of apples in one year...

DILLORN

Is now, under the judicious management of John Holliday, Esq. as pleasant and agreeable a place as most others in the county. We have already glanced at the extensive improvements and plantations of this public-spirited gentleman. Since the agricultural survey, and the reprinting of those reports in 1808, still further improvements have been made; and the *Moorlands* altogether, under the direction of a few more such laborious and indefatigable landed proprietors as Mr. Holliday, would shortly exhibit an appearance of comfort and fertility to which a great portion of these districts are at present strangers.

The church is a vicarage, in the patronage of the dean and chapter of Coventry and Lichfield. It has an octangular steeple.

Kingsley is a parish, containing 140 houses and 700 inhabitants; it is a rectory of considerable value, being rated in the king's books at 16*l.* 15*s.* patron S. Hill, Esq. This part of the country has of late years been greatly improved. Many thousand acres about *Morredge*, *Ipstones*, and *Dillorn*, which a few years ago were barren and dreary wastes, have now been enclosed and cultivated. The plantations, principally by Mr. Holliday, of *Dillorn*, *Kingsley*, and *Oakmoor*, are of a very great extent. *Dillorn-woods* alone form a chain of three or four miles in length, consisting of tall straight oaks and ash, in general so well filled up with underwood, as to be cut in gradual falls, at seven years' growth. Eighty-four acres of wood will admit of twelve acres being cut annually; and will produce, when sold to the potteries for crates, seventeen shillings

* Nat. Hist. Staff. p. 225. and MS. n. Degge, as cited by Gough.

shillings per acre per annum, for the underwood only ; while the unplanted bleak hills are not worth more than three or four shillings per acre.* It is neither irrelevant nor uninteresting to pursue these observations on the cultivation of the Moorlands. Mr. Holliday has described it in a pleasing manner.† “The east-side of *Dillorn-heath*,” he observes, “was cultivated with potatoes, after the heath and gorse had rotted, and been mixt with lime and compost. The crop of potatoes was so abundant as to admit of many loaded waggons being sent in the winter into the vicinity of the pottery, about six miles from Dillorn. The quantity was not only immense, but the quality in so high repute, as to produce about two-pence a bushel above the common market price. In this part of the Moorlands the potatoe-harvest is of great consideration, and the 30,000 artificers and yeomanry eat very little wheaten-bread. Give a cottager in the Moorlands, with a wife and ten or twelve children, a cow and a rood or two of potatoe-ground, and you make him a happy man.” This observation was made in 1792. The destructive nature, and expensive operations, of war and its depopulating effects, have rendered the remark somewhat inaccurate, or too strong. Fewer children or more cows and potatoe-ground, even in the present still farther improved state of the Moorlands, are now, we fear, essential to the happiness of these cottagers ; admitting happiness, agreeably to the remark of Pope, to

Lie in three words : Health, Peace, and Competence.

Yet the poor inhabitants of these parts are certainly not more wretched than others : nor perhaps is this term wretchedness applicable to any of the industrious classes of Englishmen, either here or elsewhere ; and there is, most assuredly, not a little of pleasing truth in the further statement of Mr. Holliday,

* Note in Pitt, 139.

† Transactions of the Society of Arts, Vol. X. p. 21. et seq.

Holliday, who proceeds to say, concerning this supposed happy cottager, with a wife, ten or twelve children, a cow and two rood of potatoe-ground, that he gets to his daily labour, earns money to purchase clothing,* &c. for his large family; the younger children collect the dung and soil from the public roads, for the improvement of the potatoe-ground, and the industrious dame, with her stouter children, keep the ground clean, and attend to get in the potatoe harvest, the chief support of their family, about nine months in the year.

In these Moorland parts of Staffordshire, it has been stated how comfortably many thousands of poor people live by the wholesome addition of potatoes to their ordinary food. But how striking is the contrast in some public institutions in or near London! For instance, the children belonging to Christ's hospital in London and Hertford amount to about 1000. The allowance of wheaten bread is a pound each day to each child, and consequently the consumption, by the children only, is 7000 pounds weight of bread weekly. This royal hospital (well regulated in many respects) was founded by Edward the sixth. Potatoes were not then of the growth of this country ;
and,

* Dr. Withering, whose botanical labours and many private virtues the friends of Science will long remember, remarks, that "the wages of these day-labourers are certainly very inadequate to the price of provisions; and hence arises, in a great measure, the enormous increase of the poor's-rates." "A man and his wife and five children, living chiefly upon bread, as these people do, will consume one bushel of wheat per week: the man gains from six shillings to nine shillings per week, and his bread costs eight shillings or more, when such is the price of wheat. I know the necessity of working people, whose nourishment chiefly depends upon bread, having the best kind of bread, such as affords the most nutrition. Nothing is got by the higher wages he may sometimes earn at piece-work: the man soon wears himself out by extra exertions, and his family lose his support the sooner. A day-labourer at fifty begins to be an old man; no other proof is wanting." This benevolent writer afterwards remarks, "that a labourer should earn weekly to the amount of a bushel and a half of wheat." These observations were made at a time when wheat was considered at a very high price; and when wages were lower than at present. Wheat is now (1813) much higher.

and, by some fatality or strange inattention, this very cheap and wholesome vegetable* has never, nor has any other fresh vegetable, been received within the walls of the hospital for the use of the children. Mr. Holliday then suggests that "one hundred weight of potatoes should be used with every like weight of wheat or other grain."

In the neighbourhood of this district, on the banks of the Dove, is the ancient manor of *Barriesford*, or *Barrisford*, † from which place sprang the family of the present lord Tyrone, marquis of Waterford in Ireland. This family flourished for many centuries, first in this county, and subsequently in those of Warwick and Leicester. That branch of the family, which spring more immediately from this place, spread into the counties of Derby, Nottingham, Kent, Lincoln, and the city of London. A branch of the Kentish line removed into Ireland, and was advanced to the honourable degree of baronet of that kingdom, in the person of Sir Tristram *Beresford*, and to those of baron, viscount, and earl, in his great grandson, Sir Marcus Beresford, earl of Tyrone. John de Beresford was seized of the manor of Beresford, Oct. 14th. 1087, and therein was succeeded by his son, Hugh. Aden Beresford was lord of this place in the 8, 16, and 17, Edward II. and his son.

In 1411 John Beresford, of this place, gave his son Aden all his estate in the parish of Astonfield, to which this place belongs, together with other estates and lands in the county. They were granted in the reign of Edward IV. to John, lord Audley, in trust. They were afterwards released; and in process of time came to be possessed by Sir George Cotton, Knt. whose son, Charles, is particularly mentioned by lord Clarendon,

* The reader will find abundant information respecting the wholesomeness and general use of potatoes, in Wakefield's "*Account of Ireland*," just published, in two very large 4to. vols. This is one of the most valuable statistical books ever published concerning that interesting country.

† In former times, this was called *Beresford*. Col. Peer. by Sir E. Brydges, VIII. 74.

Clarendon,* a gentleman born to a competent fortune, and so qualified in his person and education, that for many years he continued the greatest ornament of the town, in the esteem of those who had been best bred. Though a person of exquisite parts and amiable manners, "some unhappy suits in law, and waste of his fortune in those suits," made some impressions on his mind; and which, being overpowered by domestic afflictions, and those indulgences to himself which naturally attend those afflictions, rendered his age less revered than his youth had been; and gave his best friends cause to have wished, that he had not lived so long.†

This unfortunate gentleman was the father of *Charles Cotton*, the poet, who was born at Beresford, on the 28th of April, 1630.‡ He received his education at Cambridge university, and was esteemed one of its greatest ornaments.§ On the completion of his education he travelled into foreign countries;|| but the greatest part of his life was spent at the family seat at Beresford. In, 1656, he married Isabella, daughter of Sir Thomas Hutchinson, Knt. By the death of his father, in 1658, he came possessed of the family estate, which the embarrassments of his father had much encumbered. In 1663 he translated the "Moral Philosophy of the Stoics," of M. de Vaix, president of the Parliament of Provence. Two years afterwards he translated from the French the *Horace* of Corneille. In 1670, the year before this was printed, he published, in folio, a translation of the "*History of the Life of the Duke d'Esperuon*." About this time his affairs became much embarrassed, and he received

* Continuation of the life of lord Clarendon, Vol. III. p. 32, 8vo. ed. 1759.

† "Continuation," &c. *ubi supra*.

‡ Life of Charles Cotton, Esq. prefixed to the second part of Sir John Hawkins's ed. of Walton's Complete Angler.

§ Grainger's Biographical History of England, Vol. IV.

|| Biographia Dramatica.

ceived a captain's commission in the army, upon which he went over into Ireland, which gave occasion to a burlesque poem, intituled a "Voyage to Ireland." In this poem he notices that at Chester the mayor was particularly struck on his coming out of church, with the richness of his garb, and particularly with a gold belt that he then wore. The mayor invited him to supper; and treated him with great hospitality. Mr. Cotton afterwards published many other works, both original, and translations from the French; but his most celebrated work is the "Scarronides, or Virgil Travestie;" a mock poem, on the first and fourth books of Virgil's *Æneis*, in English burlesque. The 15th edition of this poem was published in 1771, the first having been printed in 1678. The work, with considerable merit, possesses no small portion of the common alloy of the times:—it is very indecent and indelicate. He also published a little work, which has likewise passed through several editions, called "Burlesque upon Burlesque; or the Scoffer Scoffed; being some of Lucan's Dialogues newly put into English Fustian." They partake of the same merit, and the same licentious blemishes, as his other poems.

His first wife being deceased, he married the countess dowager of Ardglass, who was possessed of a jointure of fifteen hundred pounds a year. He afterwards became acquainted with the ingenious and excellent Isaac Walton, whom he called his father: Cotton possessed a similar rage to this gentleman, for angling. The situation of his house, which he himself says, was "upon the margin of one of the finest rivers, for trout and grayling, in England,"* was remarkably well situated for the exercise of his favourite diversion.

Near this place he built a small fishing-house dedicated to Anglers. Over the door of this little edifice, the initials of his own name, and Isaac Walton's, were placed together in a cypher.

* Complete Angler, part II. p. 7,

cypher. This building is still standing. It is thus described in the Notes of the Complete Angler :* "It is of stone, and the room in the inside a cube of about fifteen feet: it is paved with black and white marble. In the middle is a square black marble table, supported by two stone feet. The room is wainscotted with curious mouldings, that divide the pannels up to the ceiling: in the larger pannels are represented in painting some of the most pleasant of the adjacent fences, with persons fishing; and in the smaller the various sorts of tackle and implements used in angling. In the farther corner, on the left, is a fire-place, with a chimney;† and on the right, a large beaufet, with folding-doors, whereon are the portraits of Mr. Cotton, with a boy servant, and Walton, in the dress of the time: underneath is a cupboard, on the door whereof are the figures of a trout, and also of a grayling, which are well portrayed."‡ It was erected in 1674; but having been little care taken of, especially since the time when the description just given of it was made, it has fallen almost into ruin. The cypher, however, was visible when lately visited by the well-known and amiable Rev. John Evans, of Islington.§ The inscription, "half filled with moss, was almost obliterated. I clambered," says Mr. Evans, "in through the window with difficulty; but of the interior decorations, alas! no traces were to be found." The person, who accompanied Mr. Evans as a guide, informed him, that the "*little building*," as he termed it, was, in his remembrance, enriched with the rural decorations just mentioned, and that persons were in the habit of visiting it from a considerable distance, even from Scotland. At present

* Ed. 1784, p. 21.

† A fire-place, without a chimney, would but ill accord with our English ideas of comfort.

‡ There are two Views of this little building in Sir John Hawkins's edition of Walton's Angler; and a more correct one in the new edition of this interesting work, lately published by Mr. Bagster.

§ Juvenile Tourist, third Ed. (1810,) p. 218.

sent the walls and roof, and those in a shattered state, only remain.

The second part of Walton's *Angler*, containing "Instructions how to angle for a Trout or a Grayling, in a clear stream," was written by Mr. Cotton. It is now uniformly printed as part of Walton's book, to which it forms "a judicious supplement."

Mr. Cotton published his "Wonders of the Peak," a poem, in 1681; and in 1685, his admirable translation of Montaigne's *Essays*, dedicated to George Saville, marquis of Halifax, who expressed himself in very strong terms of approbation, respecting the honour which Mr. Cotton did him.* Besides these works, he translated "*Memoirs of the Sieur de Pontis*," which his son, Mr. Beresford Cotton, published in 1694.

Mr. Cotton was a man of considerable learning, of amiable and agreeable manners; but thoughtless and imprudent in his conduct, so that he was often in debt, and "harrassed with duns, attornies, and bailiffs,"† a condition of life but ill suited to literary pursuits; though from numerous examples, perhaps as little hurtful to the exercise of poetical talents as any others. Indeed, many of our bards have acted, as if they thought to be dunned and dinnerless, are circumstances essential to their fame as poets. Hence many persons, with weaker temptations, cooler passions, fewer opportunities, or more constitutional virtues, have censured the whole Parnassian race; whilst others, admiring the brilliancy of genius, and reflecting on the native weakness of human nature, have been disposed to draw the veil of charity over the errors, nay the vices, of a poet, whose labours have amused and delighted, more than their extravagancies have disgusted them. Such are the privileges of the sons of the muses: we, poor prose writers, must not expect such allowances.

In the second canto of Mr. Cotton's *Voyage to Ireland*, forming

* Cibber's *Lives of the poets*, Vol. III. p. 303, 304.

† Granger's *Biog. Hist. of Eng.* Vol. IV. p. 51.

ing part of the account which he gives of his conversation with the mayor of Chester, he writes thus:

"I answer'd, my country was fam'd *Staffordshire*,
 "That in deeds, bills, and bonds, I was ever writ squire;
 "That of lands, I had both sorts, some good and some evil,
 "But that a great part on't was pawn'd to the Devil."

And in his Epistle to Sir Clifford Clifton, speaking of himself, are the following lines:

"He always wants money, which makes him want ease;
 "And he's always besieged, th' himself of the peace,
 "By an army of duns, who batter with scandals,
 "And are foemen more fierce than the Goths or the Vandals."

He is said to have died in 1687, somewhere in the parish of St. James's, Westminster; and that he died insolvent. His son *Beresford*, already mentioned, had a company given him in a regiment of foot, raised by the earl of Derby, for the service of king William; and one of his daughters, Olivia, was married to Dr. George Stanhope, dean of Canterbury,* well known for his various excellent works of piety and devotion, though for none, perhaps, more so, than for his imperfect and inaccurate translation of Thomas à Kempis's *De Imitatione Christi*.

Bereford Hall, which stands on an eminence, was very lately inhabited by a maiden lady. It is in a ruinous state; and the adjoining garden is altogether suffered to grow wild and desolate.

Dove-dale, which forms one of the most beautiful and pleasing prospects in England, in fact belongs to *Derbyshire*; and is usually described with that county;† but it shall be alluded to hereafter, before we finally leave the *Moorlands*.

Mill-dale is a long, narrow, but deep glen, near *Alstonfield*.
The sides consist of over-hanging precipices of limestone,
Vol. XIII. S s s estimated

• Biographia Brit. from his Life by Hawkins.

† BEAUTIES, Vol. III. See also before p. 732 of this volume.

estimated to be from 100 to 150 yards of perpendicular elevation, and so steep that they can be clambered up but in very few places. The width of this glen, vale, or dale, at the top, scarcely exceeds the depth of its sides: it seems formed by the bursting or breaking of the hill,* which composes its sides, occasioned by a want of solidity in its bearing.

Church Mayfield, between *Rocester* and *Oakover*, on the *Dove*, is a parish only two miles from *Ashborne*, Derbyshire. It contains 120 houses, and about 650 inhabitants. The living is a vicarage. There is nothing remarkable here, except the two barrows or tumuli, one called *Rowlow*: roman coins have been found in an urn at that in *Dale-Close*, between this latter place and *Oakover*.

Stanton, in the parish of *Ellaston*, is a township, a few miles from *Ashborne*. It is a small place containing not more, perhaps, than four hundred inhabitants. It is remarkable only for having given birth to *Gilbert Sheldon*,† Archbishop of Canterbury, who was born, Anno 1598. Dr. Plot‡ says that "going to visit the house of his nativity, in the very room where he was said to have drawn his first breath, he found the following iambics :

*"Sheldonus ille præsulum primus Pater,
Hos inter ortus aspicit lucem Lares,
O ter beatam Stantonis ville casam!
Cui canita possunt invidere Marmora."*

These lines, it seems, were left there by the right Rev. father in God, Dr. John Hacket, lord bishop of Coventry and Lichfield, who, out of his extraordinary devotion to this great prelate, had purposely made a journey thither not many years before, to visit the place of his birth, "where, after he had given God thanks for the great blessings he had afforded the world in that place, he sate him down and wrote these verses." This prelate

* Pitt's Agr. Survey, p. 273.

† By mistake, we mentioned the name of this Abp. as having been born at *Stanton Prior*, in *Somersetshire*. Vide ante, p. 630.

‡ Nat. Hist. Staff. p. 273.

prelate certainly left behind him a very high character for piety and benevolence; and he, in most respects, deserved it; but how to reconcile the character for moderation which has been usually given to him does not so obviously appear. When the king would have granted toleration to the non-conformists in general, he interposed to prevent it; and in fact to procure a rigid enforcement of the *Corporation act*, a law that does not add to the liberal character for which our happy constitution has long been deservedly famed. Whether Charles was willing to reconcile himself to the Presbyterians, who constituted a powerful body in the nation, or the duke of Buckingham, who had then great influence in the council, resolved to forward a step which he knew would be disagreeable to the duke of Osmond, whom he hated, uncommon favour was now shewn to that sect, which had been so much, and so unjustly, depressed since the Reformation. They appeared more openly, and even ventured to assemble at their religious worship. Sir Orlando Bridgeman sent for two of their ministers, and consulted them about means for comprehending them in the body of the English church, as well as for procuring an indulgence for Independents and other non-conformists. These two ministers, having conferred with a like number of the English church, after several meetings, and various disputes, agreed, that with respect to ordination, all non-conformists, already ordained, might be admitted into the ministry of the church, by virtue of this form: "Take thou the legal authority to preach the word of God, and administer the holy sacraments in any congregation in England, where thou shalt be lawfully appointed thereto." They likewise agreed, that ceremonies should be left indifferent: that the liturgy should be altered, that those who could not be comprehended, should be indulged; and that, for the security of the government, the names of the teachers, and all the members of the congregations, should be registered. The lord chief justice Hales undertook to draw up a bill for this purpose, and the keeper of

the Great Seal, promised to support it in Parliament with his whole interest.

These things coming to the knowledge of *Sheldon*, the Archbishop, he immediately addressed a circular letter to all his suffrages, enjoining them to make an exact inquiry, touching all the conventicles that were held within their respective dioceses. Having received all the information he could procure on the subject, he exaggerated every circumstance to the king; and obtained from his easy disposition, a proclamation, ordering the laws against non-conforming ministers to be put in execution.* This was for a short time somewhat rigidly enforced, though it would seem rather against the king's secret wish; whose policy he clearly enough saw dictated a wiser and more liberal course.

In this business certainly *Sheldon* does not appear to have acted with that prudence and moderation, which so eminently distinguished his conduct on other occasions. His munificence in expending the enormous sum of 15,000*l.* for building the theatre at Oxford, besides 2000*l.* for the purchase of lands for its perpetual repairs, will ever entitle him to the esteem and regard of the learned world. In this structure, which was erected in 1669, is an admirable full length portrait of its worthy and liberal founder. It, appeared, by his private accounts, that in fourteen years he had bestowed 60,000*l.* in public and private charities.

He was expelled the University of Oxford, along with many other learned and excellent men, during the usurpation of the infamous *Oliver*;† but the particulars of this prelate's life are already sufficiently known. He died, Anno Domini 1677.

Alstonfeld.

• Hist. Rel. III. 461.

† Sir E. Brydges, in his enlarged and much improved edition of Collins's Peerage, alludes to this circumstance, in a note, Vol. III. p. 137, which he has confessedly "borrowed from Dr. Whitaker" This is noticed here, merely to point out a singular oversight of Sir Egerton's. The character of the coun-

Altonfield. In this parish rises the small river *Dove*, so much admired for its fish, and pleasant banks. It was near this place that Cotton, of whom we have just spoken at some length, took so much pleasure in fishing, and here he wrote the following lines:

“ O my beloved Nymph ! fair *Dove*,
 Princess of rivers ! how I love
 Upon thy flow’ry banks to lie,
 And view thy silver stream
 When gilded by a summer’s beam.
 And in all that wanton fry
 Playing at liberty,
 And with my angle upon them,
 The all of treachery,
 I ever learned to practise, and to try.”*

Near this place, and at a still smaller distance from *Alceton*, already mentioned, upon an elevated situation, there were, in Plot’s time, the remains of a fortress similar to the one near *Maer*,† only much larger, which the people used to call *Bone-bury*. It is described to have been of an irregular figure, encompassed with a double trench ; and in some places with a treble one, according as the natural situation of the place seems to have required, particularly on the north-west and north-east sides, all the rest being naturally inaccessible : the whole including about one hundred acres, which, adds Dr. Plot, “ I have no doubt had been made by Ceolred king of Mercia, the successor of Kenrid, when he was invaded, (like manner as Kenrid by Osrid,) in the seventh year of his reign,

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tess of Dorset, Pembroke, and Montgomery, which this industrious editor, has very properly added from Whitaker to Collins, is repeated *verbatim*. Compare Vol. III, at *sup.* and Vol. VI. p. 533. This repetition occupies nearly three pages, Sir E. B. will excuse this well-meant intimation. The general excellence of his work may well enough allow a few mistakes ; but such as this will doubtless be corrected.

* Cotton’s Poems, p. 136.

† Vide *ante*, p. 926.

by the potent *Ina*, king of the West Saxons, in the year of Christ 716. *Cujus anno septimo Ina Rex West Saxiæ, magno Exercitu congregato contra Eum apud Bonebury strenue prælival,* i. e. in the seventh year of Ceolred's reign, *Ina* king of the West Saxons, having raised a great army, fought him stoutly at Bonebury, says the abbot of Jourvall;* when yet Ceolred (by the advantage of his strong fortification) so warmly received him, that he was glad to withdraw upon equal terms, neither having much reason to brag of victory."† Nothing of this once extensive fortress now remains; nor, we believe, is the name of Bonebury now remembered.

Wotton-under-Weever-hill is a small township, where there is a high paved way, which Dr. Plot took for a *via vicinalis*,‡ Camden observes that the people in this neighbourhood describe the climate of these Moorland districts, by the following distich :

" Wotton under Weever
Where God came never."

And, it is also remarked that these people have noticed that the west wind always brings rain, but the east and south, which in other places are rainy winds, make fair weather, unless the wind veers from the west to the south,§ and this they ascribe to its nearness to the Irish channel.

On *Ecton Hill*, near *Warslaw*, upon the estate of his grace the duke of Devonshire, there are remarkably fine mines for lead and copper; particularly the latter. That part of the hill in which the mine is situated is of a conical form, and its perpendicular

* Brompton's Chronicon, *apud Regno Mericorum.*

† Plot. Nat. Hist. Staff. p. 410.

‡ Ib. 402, *et ante* p. 923. Mr. Gough, who was our authority, in the former mention of this place, has misled us. He probably mistook it for *Walton*.

§ Camd. Brit. in Staff. Mr. Pitt, Agricul. Sur. p. 8, has copied this observation from Camden; but in a note on the same page, Mr. Sneyd adds, that "from a series of observations, taken here these twenty years, it is proved that most rain has come from the south-west."

pendicular height to the east is about seven hundred feet, the diameter of its base, from the *Manifold* westward, is about half a mile. The upper strata of mould, is on limestone, about fifteen or sixteen inches thick, producing very fine herbage for sheep and other cattle. In those parts where the declivity will admit of plowing very fine wheat, barley, and oats, are occasionally cultivated, to great advantage. This mine was known before Plot's time. He informs us that it was worked several years by lord Devonshire himself, Sir Richard Fleetwood, and some Dutchmen; but they had all left it off, before he came into the country as not worth their while.* Between eighty and ninety years ago, this mine was again discovered by a Cornish miner who, passing over the hill, found a bit of ore, annexed to some fine spar, to which that metal usually adheres. On viewing the situation and height of the hill, he concluded that it might contain vast quantities of copper ore, and that no place could be more convenient for working it. He, therefore, communicated his discovery and his sentiments to some adventurers at Ashborne, who approved of the project, and applied to the grandfather of the duke of Devonshire, we believe the grandfather of the present duke, for a lease to search for copper in that hill. Upwards of 13,000*l.* were expended before any returns were made, when several of the adventurers, despairing of success, sold their shares at a considerable loss. The second adventurers were more fortunate; for after sinking a shaft of about two hundred yards deep, and driving in an entrance, or adit, as the miners term the opening to such pits, they found immense quantities of copper ore, which continued to increase the lower they descended; by which means, at the termination of the lease, they had acquired very considerable fortunes; and it then fell into the hands of the present duke's father. At the time Mr. Gough published the second edition of his *Camden* in 1789, it cleared annually between 8 and, 10,000*l.* and, as he observes, might produce

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double.

* Plot, 165. in Gough's *Camd.* II. 515.

double.* Some hundreds of persons, men, women, and children, are annually employed.

In descending to view this extensive mine, we enter at the base of the hill, by the river, and proceed almost four hundred yards in a direct line. About sixty yards from the entrance, it is nearly five feet high, walled on each side with masonry. Beyond this the height of this adit varies, and in some places rises to six feet. At the centre there is a spacious timber lodgement, for landing and receiving the ore from below. After it is drawn up to this lodgement, it is conveyed through the adit on four-wheel carriages, each containing about a ton and a half. These vehicles have brass wheels, which run along the passage in grooves, with great facility, by boys of twelve or fourteen years of age. Over this lodgement, there is a large cavity, at least two hundred and fifty yards high, by the sides of which there is a passage to the summit. Thus far it is easy to pass, with the assistance of lights; but below there is such a horrid gloom, rattling of carriages, noise of workmen boring the rocks, and blasting the more obdurate and impenetrable strata, under the very feet of the beholder, while from this apparently frightful gulph the distant and hollow voices and murmurings of labourers, that if Milton had wished for a place, from which to have drawn his picture of Pandemonium, he could not better have described it than by a representation of this stupendous mine, and its gloomy apparatus.

From the platform, the descent is nearly two hundred yards through different lodgments, by ladders, steps, and cross-pieces of timber, let into the rock. In passing down, the constant blasting of the rocks, making a noise much louder than the loudest thunder, which in some parts of the Moorlands among the rocks is awfully tremendous, seems to agitate the whole mountain. When at the bottom, strangers take shelter in a niche, as the miners generally give a salute of half a dozen blasts,

* Additions to Camden, Vol. II. p. 515.

blasts, in quick succession, by way of welcome to these horrid mansions. The monstrous cavern above, the glimmering light of candles, and the suffocating smell of sulphur, all conspire to increase the stranger's surprise, heighten his apprehensions; and call up those ideas, which enthusiasts labour to impress upon the minds of the ignorant, respecting the sulphur and the smoke of the bottomless pit:

"For he, who standing on the brink of hell,
Can carry it so unconcerned and well
As to betray no fear, is certainly
A better Christian, or a worse, than I."

COTTON.

The description which this same poet gives of the noise made by the large stones, which the country people are apt to cast down *Elden Hole*, one of the wonders of the *Peak* in Derbyshire, will apply with peculiar force, if not exactly with the same accuracy of description, to the sounds of these fearful blastings:

"When one's turned off, it, as it parts the air,
A kind of sighing makes, as if it were
Capable of the trembling passion fear,
Till the first hit strikes the astonish'd ear,
Like thunder under ground, thence it invades
With louder thunder those Tartarean shades,
Which groan forth horror at each pond'rous stroke,
Th'unnatural issue gives the parent rock.
Whilst, as it strikes, the sound by turns we note,
When nearer, flat; sharper, when more remote;
When after falling long, it seems to hiss,
Like the old serpent in the dark abyss."

Let the mind add to this representation, that the bottom of these frightful abodes, in the heart of *Ecton Hill*, are inhabited, for the greatest part of the day, by living reflecting beings, and little more will be necessary to complete the vulgar idea of the infernal regions.

There is something in the position, situation, and inclination,
of

of this mine different, it is said, from any yet discovered in the known world: for the amazing mass of copper ore with which this hill abounds, does not run in regular veins, courses, or strata, but sinks perpendicularly down, widening, and swelling out at the bottom, in the form of a bell. Let the reader suppose himself nearly three hundred fathoms deep, in the bowels of a mountain, in a great hollow of immense diameter; then let him suppose an impenetrable wall of limestone rock, interspersed with small veins of copper ore, yellow, black, and brown, intermixed with spar, marcasite, mundic, and other sulphureous compositions, of all colours; and at the same time figure to himself the sooty complexions of the miners, their labour, and miserable way of living in those subterraneous regions, and he will then be apt to fancy himself in another world. Yet these inhabitants being trained up in darkness, labour, and confinement, are not perhaps less happy, or less contented, than those who possess the more flattering enjoyments of light and liberty.

No timber is made use of, except for the lodgments, or platforms; ladders or steps, let into the rocks for ascending and descending the mine; and we believe many of the cross-pieces are now made of iron, as is the case with the lead-mines in Derbyshire. Neither is there any considerable quantity of water to retard the works, though they are now above two hundred yards below the bed of the river. Hence, four horses, working six hours each at a common engine, are sufficient to keep the mine clear. In this mine, which has long been the deepest in Great Britain, sixty or seventy stout men were employed about six hours at a time each day. Their pay is now much increased; but whether it has kept an exact proportion with the advanced price of provisions is somewhat doubtful. They are, however, as merry and jovial as their fellow mortals who toil above them. Most of them work entirely naked, except having on a pair of coarse canvass drawers.

When the ore is emptied from the carriages, above mentioned,

tioned, it is broken into small pieces by large hammers. It is then conveyed, in hand barrows, to a small shed to be sorted and picked by little girls, in three different parcels, called the best, second, and worst. It is then conveyed to a larger shed, where women sit back to back on benches, to buck or beat it, with flat hammers, still keeping every particular sort separate. The ore, now reduced to a small sand, is removed to the buddles for washing; when an experienced miner superintends it, lest any of the finer sort, through the ignorance of the girls and women, who sort and beat it, should be lost. Here it is washed and cleansed, and afterwards exposed for sale in the open air, in various heaps, ticketted, according to the different qualities and quantities. What is called ticketing the ore is taking a couple of handfuls off a heap of ore promiscuously, and putting them into canvas bags for samples. Labels are attached to these bags expressive of the quality and the quantity which each bag contains. It is sold to the proprietors of the smelting-houses, often in a manner resembling a public auction. The refuse part of the ore is carried to a smelting-house on the premises, and run into a regulus, in large pigs or bars; so that, in fact, nothing is eventually lost.

In the neighbourhood there are various buildings, for a carpenter's shop, a forge, a cooperage, and neat dwelling-houses, for the superintendants. These houses have each a small kitchen garden, with suitable outhouses.*

On the opposite side of the hill there is a lead mine, discovered some eighty years ago. This mine is also exceedingly rich; its veins approaching very near to the copper ore; so that this hill is altogether a most valuable acquisition to the estates of his grace the duke of Devonshire.

At *Cakwich*, in the parish of *Ellastou*, there was formerly a small convent of Black Canons. It was founded some time before the year 1148;† but no vestiges of it now remain.

Onecote

* Tanner's *Notitia Monastica*, p. 497.

† Mr. Eford, in *Gent. Mag.* Vol. XXXIX, p. 59, et seq.

Onecote is a small village, and township, containing nearly two hundred houses, and seven hundred inhabitants; many of whom are employed in the copper and lead mines of *Ecton*, above described.

In this neighbourhood is *Narrowdale*, remarkable for the high rocks, by which it is surrounded. Dr. Plot* remarks, that many of the mountains about here, are of so vast a height, that, in rainy weather, he has frequently seen the tops of them above the clouds. Those of *Narrowdale*, in particular, are so very narrow that the inhabitants there, for that quarter of the year when the sun is nearest the tropic of Capricorn, never see it at all; and that at length, when it does begin to appear, they never see it till about one o'clock, which they call the *Narrowdale-noon*, using it proverbially, when they would express a thing done late at noon.

Indeed, the rocks in this neighbourhood, many of which are of a most surprising height, give an air of sublimity to the scene, beyond description grand and awful. From these rocks, some of which are entirely naked, not having any turf or mould upon them, the most romantic prospects may be seen:

"Fields, lawns, hills, vallies, pastures, all appear,
Clad in the varied beauties of the year.
Meandering waters, waving woods are seen.
Here curling smoke from cottages ascends,
There towers the hill, and there the valley bends."

The vale of *Manyfold*, is situated between *Wetton* and *Butterton*, where the waters of the *Manyfold* are absorbed by the fissures under the limestone hills,† and discharged again at *Ilam*, as before mentioned. "The warmest imagination," says Mr. Pitt, "can scarcely conceive a spot more extravagantly romantic than some parts of this vale." *Thyrsis's Cavern*, which

* P. 110.

† Pitt's Survey, v. 173.

which signifies *Thor's* House Cavern*, is a considerable excavation, pretty high up the side of a lofty precipice. It has something the appearance of the inside of a Gothic church, and seems to be the work of art. Starlings alone are its present inhabitants.† The thunder here is frequently tremendous. The common people call it *Hobhurst's ‡ Cave*; possibly some religious legend may have been attached to the place; or that some robber may have been supposed to inhabit it. We could not, however, discover that any tradition, except a Druidical one, exists to designate the origin or use of this extraordinary cavern, of which we shall have occasion again to make mention, further on.

Dr. Plot § notices several *lows* or *barrows* in this neighbourhood, and thence naturally infers, that the Roman militia some time visited the Moorlands, and that these have been places of action.

In the parish of *Ilam*, near the spring called *St. Bertram's Well*, there was found an instrument of brass, somewhat resembling, only larger, a lath-hammer, at the edge end, but not so on the other. This Dr. Plot has described in the XXIII. Tab. fig. 6. This he takes to have been the head of a Roman *Securis*, with which the *Papæ* slew their sacrifices, notwithstanding it has no eye for the *manubrium* to pass through, the *Securis* itself being only some times stuck through it, as may be seen at many places, among the Roman antiquities of *Bartolus* and *Bellosius*.|| This Staffordshire historian proceeds to remark, that a small brass instrument, sent to him by "the worshipful Charles Cotton, Esq." found somewhere near him, argues also that the Roman armies were advanced even into the northern parts,

* The god of Thunder.

† Pitt, *ubi sup.*

‡ The people here call the hollow of a rock, *Thur's House*. *Magna Brit.* Vol. V. p. 110.

§ P. 403. *et seq.*

|| Vide *Admiranda Romanar. Antiquitatum vestigia*, per Joh. Bellorium et Petr. Sanct. Bartobrum.

parts, it seeming to have been the head of a *Roman rest*,* used to support the *Lituus*, not that crooked staff used by the *Augurs*, in their divinations, to point out the quarters of the heavens; but the *Trombe-torte*, crooked trumpet, or horn-pipe, used in the Roman armies, as may be seen in Choulet's Discourse of the *Castrametation* of the Romans.†

It is also justly inferred from the brass head of the Roman *Venabulum*, or hunting spear, found betwixt *Yarlet* and the foot of *Pyrehill*, that the Romans had at least some residence here, with leisure to follow such sports, as the country would afford.

Whence also it may reasonably be concluded, as also from some Roman coins that has sometimes been found in *Dale close*, between *Oakover* and *Mayfield*, and a Roman urn dug, now about one hundred years ago, out of a bank in *Church Town field*‡ in Upper *Mayfield*, &c. that the barrows hereabouts may for the most part, at least, be esteemed Roman. Particularly *Harlow Greave*, a little north-west of *Mayfield*, and that other in a field near the left hand the way as you pass between *Mayfield* and *Ellaston*, near *Colwich Common*, without name, and another larger over against it, at the other end of the common, which they call *Rowlow*, perhaps the sepulchre of some petty king, *Rowlow* importing as much as *Regale Sepulchrum*.§ To these may be added the barrow on *Arbour Close*, already mentioned, the three barrows on the *Weever Hills*, and three others, in Plot's time, called *Queenslow*, *Gallows low*, and *Castlow Cross*, together with the *lows* on *Ribden*, *Reeden*, and *Calldon hills*; and so *Cocklow*, and the rest near *Leek*, and those on *Ecton Hill*; and another between that and *Onecote*. Most of these upon examination, as well as those on *Morredge*, have been found made of stones, and not gravel or earth, as usually elsewhere,

* It is described on the Plate above referred to, fig. 7.

† *Discorso sopra la Castrametation di Romani per il S. Guglielmo Choul.*

‡ *Magna Brit. Vol. V. p. 105.*

§ Plot. p. 404.

elsewhere, which yet, says Plot,* must not be wondered at, because we find they were made also in other countries of such materials as the places best afforded, particularly *ex lapidibus in Saxosis locis*,† such as these are.

The reason why such barrows and warlike instruments, certainly Roman, are so often found remote from their *military ways*, Dr. Plot supposes to have been, that the natives drew their invaders off, and skirmished with them any where, as occasion presented. Upon which account too we find the Romans to have pitched their tents in places far distant from their *ways*, as may be plainly perceived by the *Valla* that went round them, which, as Polybius and Vegetius both say, were often made square, ‡ especially says *Stewecius*, § when they would have their armies appear great.

The Saxon antiquities of this county seem to be confined to the more southern districts.

This part of the Moorlands is the most barren and unproductive, as far at least as concerns the soil, of which, indeed, in many parts there is very little, and in some none at all; the naked rocks appearing. The limestone bottom ends at *Morredge*, and understratum in the tract of country west of *Leek*, and of this waste, is generally sandy or gravelly clay, or grit-stone rock. The surface of the land north-east of *Mole-cop* is in most instances too uneven for cultivation. Large tracts of waste land here, though elevated in point of situation, are mere moors and peat-mosses; and of this sort are a part of *Morredge*, *Axedge*, *Cloudheath*, *High-forest*, *Leek-frith*, and *Mole-cop*, though ranking among the highest land in the county. || Mr. Pitt gives an interesting description of the general face of this part of the country. "The summits," he observes, "of some of the hills in this county terminate in huge tremendous

* P. 504. † Ol. Wormis Monument. Danicorum, lib. I. cap. 7.

‡ Polyb. Hist. l. 6. de Cast. et Flav. Veget. de re militari lib. I. cap. 23.

§ Godesc. Stew. Com. in lib. I. cap. 23. Flav. Veget. de re militar.

|| Pitt's Survey, p. 273, 274.

dous cliffs, particularly those called *Leek Rocks* or *Roches*, and *Ipsstones'* sharp cliffs, which are composed of huge piles of rude and rugged rocks, in very elevated situations, piled rock on rock in a most tremendous manner, astonishing and almost terrifying the passing traveller with their majestic frown. Here single blocks, the size of church steeples, are heaped together: some overhanging the precipice, and threatening destruction to all approachers; and some of prodigious bulk have evidently rolled from the summit, and broken in pieces. These stupendous piles, the work of Nature, are a sublime lecture on humility to the human mind; strongly marking the frivolity of all its even greatest exertions, compared with the slightest touches of that Almighty hand, which placed them here; in whose presence all flesh is as grass, and the proudest productions of the highest efforts of human genius are but as chaff. The speculative mind, in endeavouring to account for their origin or formation by any known laws, agency, or operation of Nature, is lost in amazement, and led to exclaim with the Egyptian magicians, "THIS IS THE FINGER OF GOD;" for the most superficial observer may perceive that it is his work." Such pious and apposite reflections, though but seldom indulged, in works like the one from which they are quoted, are pleasing indications of the excellent frame of mind with which the author performed his useful task. We are sorry for it, but feel ourselves compelled to acknowledge the fact, that many writers on the statistics, history, and antiquities of our country, write as if they were determined to shew their contempt of all religious feeling, though pursuits like these should have a direct influence in the inspiration of a devotional spirit. We trust, however, that no portion of our own work has hitherto been devoted to a strain of writing calculated to freeze or even to hinder, those sentiments, which alone exalt us beyond the ground we describe, or the inanimate productions of nature or art we attempt to delineate.

Leek Roches, as they are called, are composed of a coarse sandy

sandy grit rock. They are stupendously grand, and the reader will be able to form some idea of the scenery of which they are a conspicuous part, by casting his eye over the background of the view, which we have given of the seat of Mr. Hulme at *Ball Haigh*. The elevated rocks, being the highest parts of the scenery to the left of the view, are the *Rocks* here alluded to. Those of *Ipsstones*, Mr. Pitt says, "have for their bases gravel, or sand and small pebbles cemented together." In a note, by Mr. Sneyd, who is evidently a gentleman of much correct and practical knowledge, it is said that these rocks are *breccia arenacea*, or coarse plum-pudding stone.

Speaking of these rocks, Mr. Pitt observes that it is evident they have fallen in pieces, or, as Mr. Sneyd more correctly expresses it, have been torn in pieces, in some early period, "either by some violent convulsions of nature, or, more probably, by an alteration in the earth's centre of gravity, from some agency under the immediate will of the Almighty Creator." This, adds Mr. Pitt's annotator, just quoted, was "probably at the general burst, occasioned by volcanic minerals and water; when the strata lay regularly lapped round the globe; and consequently must have made a sufficient resistance, to have occasioned the formidable convulsion." The universal deluge, to which we believe Mr. Sneyd here alludes, is very aptly called "the general burst." No figure could more justly convey the idea of the sacred historian who informs us that "the foundations of the great deep were broken up." And it is not improbable, that these superb rocks were formed, or rather modelled into their present shape, by that tremendous agitation of nature. These magnificent, and evidently disjointed, piles might, however, be thus broken and elevated by some remote volcanic eruption, or by the violence of an earthquake, which might happen either in these immediate districts, or at far distant parts of the earth; for those internal convulsions, though local in their immediate origin, are sometimes extensive in their operations and consequences. It is a

singular, but a well authenticated fact, that at the very time when Lisbon was destroyed by an earthquake, in 1755, the mines in Derbyshire, within a very few miles from the place we are now writing concerning, were alarmed by agitations, and vibrations of the whole district, and with explosions, as loud as those proceeding from discharged cannon. It requires no reasoning to prove the adequacy of an earthquake thus to disjoint and disfigure, as it were, the hardest rocks. At the destruction of Lisbon, the mountains of Arrabada, Estretta, Julio, Marvan, and Cintra, which were amongst the largest in Portugal, were shaken to their very base; and some of them opened to their highest summits, split and rent, in a most astonishing manner, loosing huge masses, which were hurled into the adjacent vallies. When the city of *Tasso* was wholly swallowed up, one of the *Saryon* hills was rent in two; and fell in different directions, destroying at the same time, the town and temple of *Mula Tesis*, and another large town on the opposite side. The effects of earthquakes, on elevated and rocky situations, have often been observed. In 1692, when a great part of *Port Royal*, in *Jamaica*, was sunk by an earthquake, some mountains along the river, between *Spanish Town* and *Sixteen Mile-Walk*, were joined together, and others thrown on heaps, somewhat similar to these *Rocks* near *Leek*. At *Yellows* a great mountain was split, and fell into the level, covering several settlements. The agitations were very extensive; but the mountains were most violently shaken. The *Blue*, and other mountains most elevated, were the greatest sufferers. A large mountain, near *Port Morant*, nearly a day's journey over, was quite swallowed up; and a lake now occupies its site. Some of these mountains used to afford the finest green prospect: but at the conclusion of the convulsions one half of them, at least, seemed to be wholly deprived of their natural verdure.

Thus we see the natural effects of these internal operations of nature; and thus may we account for the ragged and barren elevations

elevations of these romantic districts: for who can tell what even this country may have experienced in that long lapse of ages, during which the earth has stood; and the almost perpetual changes to which it has ever been subject? An elegant, though a fanciful, and it is to be feared in some respects a dangerous writer,* has thus reflected on these tremendous convulsions of our earth: "Happy visitations, could they but teach us lessons of humanity and beneficence, and thus sweeten the precarious moment of existence! Diseases and calamities incident to human nature, eruptions of volcanoes, and, the convulsions and agitations of the globe, conspire to our destruction. The elements fight against us—should we then fight against each other, or contend for a spot that we enjoy but for a moment? For what stability is to be looked for in a world that trembles under our feet?" Or, as a writer of much greater authority, has thus emphatically expressed it:—"The fashion of this world passeth away." To whatever cause the present appearance of these rocks is to be ascribed; whether to that "general burst—" that universal concussion, which took place at the deluge, when the whole face of the earth, as well as its internal structure, was distorted and "broken up;" to some volcanic eruption, which the calcareous nature of the soil, in many parts of these districts, would seem remotely to indicate; or, which is by no means unlikely, to some violent earthquake, in their neighbourhood, nothing can be more obvious than this, that the uneven, broken, and irregular masses, of which many of them are composed, have been piled, in this wild manner, one upon another, by some cause subsequent to their first formation, when the Great Creator

————— in his hand
 —took the golden compasses, prepar'd
 In God's eternal store, to circumscribe
 This universe, and all created things."

T t t 2

In

* Dr. George Hoggart Toulmin's "Eternity of the Universe," p. 613.

In the immediate neighbourhood of *Ipstones* is *Belmont*, the seat of John Sneyd, Esq. whose judicious notes in Mr. Pitt's Survey, we have more than once had occasion to quote, and refer to. The house is pleasantly situated on a gently rising hill fronting the south-east, nearly surrounded by deep woods of oak, ash, elm, lime, maple, &c. with underwood of mountain ash, hazel, birch, alder, salixes of several species, &c. &c. which underwood is cut, on an average, once in six years, to make crates for the pottery. At the bottom of this romantic glen runs a brook, which, after feeding eight or nine large fish-ponds, runs into the river *Churnet*. Mr. Sneyd's plantations here are very extensive; and it is remarked, that had every gentleman, who has landed property in the Moorlands, improved their estates in the way he has done, there would be little occasion to complain of the "nakedness of the land," in so large a portion of this county. The woods and walks abound with numerous rare plants, of which a list, amounting to not less than twenty-seven different kinds, is given in Mr. Pitt's Survey.* Besides these, there are many others, which are not peculiar to these gardens and plantations; yet growing here in abundance.

The example of Mr. Sneyd and others, is not without its beneficial effects; and many parts of these Moorlands begin to assume as much an appearance of comfort and usefulness as other parts of the county. Many of these rude and bare rocks, it is true, must for ever remain exposed naked to the elements, unless another eruption, similar to the one to which, in all probability, they owe their present appearance, shall again sink them to their native beds, when the level plains on which they now stand may once more be covered with a fruitful soil, pregnant with animation, and teeming with verdure and fruitfulness. Till then their stony eminences must continue an example of the awful power of that Being, who "kills and makes alive," who to one place says Be fruitful and multiply,

tully, be replenished and beautified with the bounties and the ornaments of spring, and to another, Be ye the seats of winter, and the constant abodes of snow and gloom. At present to many of these rocky elevations may justly be applied the beautiful lines of Montgomery :

"SPRING,—the young cherubim of love,

An exile in disgrace,—

Flits o'er the scene, like Noah's dove,

Not finds a resting place.

When on the mountain's azure peak

Alights her airy form,

Could blow the winds,—and dark and bleak

Around her rolls the storm."

We are informed by Dr. Plot,* that in digging in a *low* or *barrow*, at no great distance from this place, there were found men's bones, of an extraordinary size, which were preserved, for some time, by a Mr. Hamilton, vicar of *Alstonfield*. As this writer does not mention the exact size of these supposed human bones, and as he received his information from report only, it is probable that some exaggeration had been used, and that, in fact, this circumstance can throw no light on the numerous traditions, we have of the existence of a race of giants, either in this, or any other part of the country.

The *Blue Hills*, in this neighbourhood, are remarkable for sending forth a saline stream, which gives the rocky district, through which it runs, a brown rusty colour. This water with an infusion of galls immediately turns as black as ink. This, doubtless, is owing to the almost inexhaustible strata of lead ore, which abounds in various parts of these hills.

The village of *Wetton*, mentioned above, is situated in the very heart of these romantic cliffs, which give it an importance highly interesting. Here it is supposed the Druids were wont to seclude themselves to perform their sacred rites; and

T t t 3

in *Thor's Cave*, to have offered human sacrifices to the god *Thor*. These victims are said to have been enclosed in wicker-idols, a circumstance which Dr. Darwin, thus poetically describes ; while he also delineates this singular cavern :

" Where *Hamps* and *Manifold* their cliffs among,
Each in his flinty channel winds along,
With lucid lines the dusky moor divide,
Hurrying to intermix their sister tides.
Where still their silver-bosom'd nymphs abhor
The blood-smeared mansion of gigantic *Thor*—
But fires volcanic in the marble womb
Of cloud-wrapp'd *WHETTON* rais'd the massy dome ;
Rocks reared on rocks, in huge disjointed piles,
From the tall turrets and the lengthen'd aisles ;
Broad pond'rous piers sustain the roof, and wide
Branch the vast rainbow ribs from side to side,
While from above descends, in milky streams,
One scanty pencil of illusive beams.
Suspended craggs, and gaping gulphs illumed,
And gilds the horrors of the deepen'd glooms,
—Hete soft the *Naiads*, as they chance to stray,
Near the dread *Fane* or *Thor's* returning day,
Saw from red altars streams of guiltless blood,
Stain their green reed-beds, and pollute their flood ;
Heard dying babes in wicker prisons wail,
And shrieks of matrons thrill the affrighted gale ;
While from dark caves infernal echoes mock,
And fiends triumphant shout from every rock."

No language could more justly describe the scenery of these astonishingly rugged and wild districts. Indeed they baffle all adequate delineation.

We have now noticed nearly every object of importance, either in nature or art, in these extensive and interesting moorland districts. At *Leek*, and beyond to the south, the country very materially alters, and no longer can with propriety be termed *Moorland* : and indeed, of late years, through the patriotic

frictic exertions of the gentlemen, whose names have already been mentioned, considerable encroachments, if we may be allowed the term on such an occasion, have been made on these once dreary and barren wastes. Many of these hills and rising grounds, which a few years ago presented only scenes of sterility; cheerless and uninhabited eminences exposed to all the blasts of heaven, and thought unfit for cultivation and incapable of yielding the fruits of the earth, are now compelled to afford their quota to the comforts, the enjoyments, and even the luxuries, of human existence. If the farmers in general would be persuaded to follow the laudable example of these landed proprietors, the Moorlands, in a very few years, would lose their very name; but unfortunately the common farmers heresabout are characterized as scandalously backward, ignorant, selfish, and bigotted. They have an idea that the land will not produce wheat, or not ripen it in time, and but seldom attempt it; but when they do, it is after fallow. They say it will grow a year from the sowing. This mistaken policy is often maintained with a pertinacity bordering on absolute stupidity; and whoever attempts to enlighten many of its adherents, is regarded as an innovator against the laws of nature, and the course of Providence. The alehouse and party politics on the one hand, and the stultifying influence of enthusiasm and fanaticism, which is spreading over every part of the country with an alarming rapidity, on the other, conspire to retard the progress of every species of improvement, as well in agriculture as all other branches of science. Religion and morals are now the only subjects, by many of the middle and lower classes of society, deemed capable of improvement; and the only ones vulnerable to the inroads of innovation and change. The stronger influences of an obvious self-interest, and the gradual progress of science and learning will, however, in time destroy these baneful propensities, which cease to exist wherever the effects of true patriotism and sound philosophy are permitted to operate.

Before we finally take our leave of the northern parts of the moorlands, we will once more notice the fertile banks of the *Dove*. These meadows, it is justly remarked, are an object of considerable importance and interest. This river, which has given name and beauty to the rich *vale* before mentioned, springs from beneath the "limestone hills of the moorlands and the peak; and at times receives an amazing addition, from torrents rushing down those hills after heavy rains or melting snow. Its channel has a great declivity; and in many places this river comes tumbling over the rocks in cascades; and, in its greatest swell, pushes on with astonishing rapidity, which continues to below *Roccester*, where the water has a greyish cast, apparent to the eye, from its being impregnated with calcareous earth, to which undoubtedly may be attributed the extraordinary fertility of its banks: for after receiving the *Churnet*, a considerable stream from a part of the moorlands, not abounding with limestone, its waters become diluted; and although its banks still continue excellent, yet they visibly decline in richness, and the extraordinary fertility ceases. Immense quantities of limestone are found both on the banks and in the channel of the *Dove*, in the first part of its course. This limestone has fallen in length of time, from precipices, which overhang the river. The fertility of the land on the upper parts of this river, about and above *Roccester*, is, and always has been, proverbial: "as rich as Dove," being applied to any spot highly forced; and the farmers, according to the Rev. Stebbing Shaw, are accustomed to say, that it is scarcely possible to overstock a few acres of Dove land. This land has a perpetual verdure, and the spring floods of the river are very gratifying to the land-occupiers, who have this proverb:

"In April, Dove's flood
Is worth a King's good."

It is also said of Dove banks in spring, that a stick laid down
there

there over-night shall not be found next morning for grass. It is very certain this river fertilizes its banks like another *Nile*; but sometimes rises so high in twelve hours as to carry off sheep and cattle, to the great alarm of the inhabitants; and in a few hours abates, and returns again within its own channel. Below *Roccester*, where this river receives the *Churnet*, the plain spreads very wide, and continues so with variations to below *Uttoxeter*. The plain here, on either side the river, is rather composed of deep rich mellow loam, impregnated with, if not wholly formed of, a sediment of rich and calcareous earth. The herbage is very fine, without any mixture of rushes or aquatic plants. The grasses are of the common sorts; but the foxtail, the vernal grass, the *poas*, the dog's tail, and the meadow *bromuss*, predominate. It contains also rib-grass, meadow and white clover, upright crowfoot, and the common herbage of other meadows; not without a mixture of the curved, or common thistle, or saw-wort, so common in every soil and country.

The plain, within reach of the floods of the Dove, extends in some places to near a mile in breadth, particularly opposite *Uttoxeter*, and amounts to several thousand acres, almost entirely pastured with cows, sheep, and some horses; very little of it being mown for hay. The uncertainty and suddenness of the floods make the risk of hay too great. A sudden rain or melting of the snow on the *moorland* or *peak* hills is sufficient to inundate large breadths of land near this river; as the declivity or fall is great, the swell of water is sudden, but soon over; and the largest floods continue but a few hours. It is to be remembered, however, that the extraordinary fertility of these lands is owing to this circumstance, however complained of as an inconvenience.

In delineating the *Beauties* of a country, certainly few objects claim a more decided and prompt attention, than the natural products of the land. It will not, therefore, be irrelevant to notice some of the most remarkable wild or native plants,

9

growing,

growing, for the most part, in the meadows and pasture lands on the *Dove*. Mr. Pitt has very accurately described them; and from his report, with a few occasional remarks, the reader will be able to gain a pretty clear knowledge of the botany of these charming districts. We insert the Linnæan, with the English, or vulgar appellation: Wild rape, (*brassica napus*.) in as highly luxuriant state, as in most places where it is cultivated. Tansey, (*tanacetum vulgare*.) Water mustard, (*crisymum barbaræ*.) Butterburr, (*tussilago petasites*.) Jack by the hedge, (*crisymum alliaria*.) Hemlock (*conium maculatum*.) Figwort, or water betony, (*scrophularia aquatica*.)

What follows is a list of the principal spontaneous pasture and meadow herbage: Meadow grasses (*poa pratensis et trivialis*.) Annual meadow grass, or Suffolk grass (*poa annua*.) This buds three or four times a year, after which the old root dies. On this account Mr. Pitt remarks it might be termed *poa quadrans annua*; he also adds, that, could the seed be procured in sufficient quantities, it is well worthy of cultivation, producing in quick succession an infinity of blades of grass, and being a sweet and fine pasturage. It is, however, after all, not very productive. Meadow fescue (*festuca pratensis*.) Foxtail grass (*alopecurus pratensis et agrestis*.) Soft grass (*holcus lanatus*.) Dog's tail grasses (*cynosurus cristatus et echinatus*.) Vernal grass (*anthoxanthum odoratum*.) This is a fine, sweet, and early, grass; but by no means productive. Rough cock's-foot grass (*dactylus glomeratus*.) This is a coarse and luxuriant grass; but not much cherished for hay. Water-meadow grass (*poa aquatica*.) This grows very high, even to the extent of six feet or upwards. It is also extremely productive. It is cultivated in the isle of Ely. Reed Canary grass (*phalaris arundinacea*.) Linnæus says that in the province of *Scandia* they mow this grass twice a year; and their cattle eat it. There is a variety of this grass, which under the name of painted lady grass, or ladies' traces, is cultivated in our gardens. It is here very tall, stalky, and productive. Meadow

oat

oat grass (*avena pratensis*.) Bent grasses of various sorts; principally the *capillaris alba et stolonifera*. These, though valuable in meadows, are very troublesome in arable land, being the basis of what Mr. Pitt calls "that curse to the plough-farmer, the black, or beggarly couch or squitch grass."* Tall oat grass (*avena elatior*.) This is the knobby or bulbous rooted couch grass. It makes good hay intermixed with other finer grasses. Dog's couch, or squitch grass (*triticum repens, et caninum*.) Flote grass (*festuca fluitans*.) generally growing in water. It is a sweet and good herbage, and very productive. It is remarked, that many a poor horse has been bogged in searching for it, of which they are remarkably fond; as also our geese and ducks of its seeds, when they well know where to find it. It is difficult to collect the seeds, or they would, says Mr. Sneyd, be very valuable on many accounts. Water hair grass (*avia aquatica*.) It is very common here, and exceeds all other grasses, and most native plants in Staffordshire, in a palatable sweetness, nearly resembling liquorice.

Other principal meadow herbage consists of the Meadow or cow clover (a variety of the *trifolium pratense*); the seed of which is often sold under the name of Cow grass. The long-leaved perennial clover (*trifolium flexuosum*.) This, we believe, is not very common on the Dove lands. It grows chiefly on a mixed gravelly loam, sometimes shady, and sometimes in open situations. It is the Marl grass of Hudson: *trifolium angustifolium*. It is found in the clayey soil in the parish of *Blithill*, in the hundred of *Cuddleston*. Trailing trefoil (*trifolium procumbens*;) a sweet, fine, and good, herbage. Bird's foot trefoil (*lotus corniculatus*.) This grows in all situations, open and shady, moist and dry, apparently worthy of cultivation. Yet Mr. Pitt failed in the attempt; the seed of his own gathering never vegetated. Perennial tufted vetch (*vicia cracca*;) excellent pasturage, and a good mixture in hay;

* Mr. Pitt, no doubt, has since seen Dr. Richardson's very interesting treatise on the cultivation of the Flote grass.

hay; not uncommon in hedges and meadows; and highly worthy of cultivation. Meadow vetchling (*lathyrus pratensis*.) For the cultivation of this plant a premium has been offered by the Bath Agricultural Society; yet it does not appear that cattle are remarkably fond of it. Meadow burnet, (*sanguisorba officinalis*.) so named from its styptic quality. It is not very common in these meadows; but it grows luxuriantly near *Walsall*, between *Walsall Wood* and *Cannock Heath*: this, Mr. Pitt says, is "a hint from nature that it should be cultivated" on cold and very poor wet upland. Meadow sweet (*spiraea ulmaria*.) The farina, or dust, of the ripe blossoms of this plant, which is very abundant, is by some esteemed a good styptic; and has been used with great success in stopping hæmorrhages. Cow weed (*charophyllum tylvestre*.) This has been used, according to Curtis, * as a pot-herb. It is very common about *Wolverhampton* and *Wednesfield*. Cows eat it very greedily. † Meadow sorrel (*rumex acetosa*.) To these may be added the various kinds of Crowfoots (*ranunculus*.) These are extremely abundant in the Staffordshire meadows; and which, though in themselves acrid and pungent, are certainly a most desirable and grateful admixture. They seem intended, says Mr. Pitt, as seasoners and correctors, and to be adapted to uses in the animal œconomy similar to that of salt, mustard, pepper, and vinegar, at our tables; to correct the flatulent or putrid qualities of the more palatable and luxuriant dishes on the great table of Nature.

What follows are considered, by this sensible agriculturist, as neutral plants, or such as are neither worthy the farmer's attention to encourage their growth, nor his efforts to destroy; the foliage of many of them is eaten by cattle without injury, either green or in hay, in common with other herbage: Dandelion (*bellis perennis*.) Daffodil (*narcissus pseudo-narcissus*.) Harebell, English hyacinth (*hyacinthus non-scriptus*.) Fritillary
(*fritillaria*)

* Observations on British grasses.

† Dr. Withering's Botanical Arrangement of British Plants.

(*Fritillaria Meleagris*.) This very curious and rare flower adorns in great profusion some meadows about one mile from *Blymhill*, in the parish of *Wheatch-Aston*. Cowslip (*primula veris*.) Primrose (*primula vulgaris*.) Lady smocks, of several sorts (*cardamines*;) principally the *pratensis* and *Aristea*. Wood, or meadow anemone (*anemone nemorosa*.) The flowers of this plant fold up in a curious manner against rain. Dr. Withering observes, that it brings on the Dysentery, when eaten by sheep that are unaccustomed to it. Goose grass (*gallium palustre, et uliginosum*.) Bistort (*polygonum bistorta*;) common in moist meadows; also in very high pasture-ground, at *Essington*, in the parish of *Bushbury*. The root of this plant is, as Dr. Withering observes, one of the strongest vegetable astringents. Cinquefoils (*potentilla verna et reptans*.) Meadow rue (*thalictrum flavum*.) This grows plentifully on Mr. Pitt's farm at *Pendeford*. Valerian (*valeriana officinalis*.) Oreltiss of several sorts; Meadow boot (*Caltha palustris*.) Ladies' mantle (*alchemilla vulgaris*.) Yarrow (*archillea millefolium*.) Restharrow (*ononis arvensis*.) Of this, almost useless plant, Mr. Pitt remarks, that he never found any in *Staffordshire*, except the kind here mentioned: there is, however, in some counties, particularly in *Kent*, a worse kind than this: (viz.) the prickly, thorny, or spiny restharrow (*ononis spinosa*;) this is a smooth species; yet rather to be extirpated than encouraged. Yellow rattle (*rhinanthus crista galli*;) called also penny-grass, from the flat round shape of the seeds, which are very nutritive.* Eye-bright (*euphrasia officinalis et odonites*.) This plant is much gathered by some persons for the purpose of uniting with crow-foot, and St. John's wort, for making into British-herb tobacco.† Purg- ing flax (*linum catharticum*.) This is called in *London* Mountain flax, and is sold at the herb shops, as a cathartic. It grows plentifully both in *Staffordshire* and other places. There is abundance of it growing on a heath near *Withington* in *Cheshire*; but does not appear to be much noticed in the country.

* Mr. Sneyd's n. in Pitt.

† Editor.

try.* White saxifrage (*saxifraga granulata*.) This is found in abundance on some of the moorland meadows.

Mr. Pitt has not noticed that universal plant, the modest and humble, yet persevering, *Daisy*, which grows so plentifully, and whitens the fields in many parts of this and other counties. Mr. Montgomery's beautiful verses on finding one of these flowers in full bloom on Christmas day, 1803, may serve to relieve what some readers, whose tastes do not lead to botanical researches, will consider a tedious list:

There is a flower, a little flower,
With silver crest and golden eye,
That welcomes every changing hour,
And weathers every sky.

The fonder beauties of the field
In gay but quick succession shine,
Race after race their honours yield,
They flourish and decline.

But this small flower to nature dear,
While moon and stars their courses run,
Wreathes the whole circle of the year,
Companion of the sun.

It smiles upon the lap of May,
To sultry August spreads its charms,
Lights pale October on his way,
And twines December's arms.

The purple heath, and golden broom,
On moory mountains catch the gale,
O'er lawns the lily sheds perfume,
The violet in the vale.

But this bold floweret climbs the hills,
Hides in the forest, haunts the glen,
Plays on the margin of the rill,
Peeps round the fox's den.

Within

Within the garden's cultur'd sound
 It shares the sweet carnation's bed ;
 And blooms on consecrated ground
 In honour of the dead.

The lambkin crops its crimson gem,
 The wild-bee murmurs on its breast,
 The blue-fly bends its pensile stem,
 That decks the sky-lark's nest.

Tis FLORA'S page :—In every place,
 In every season fresh and fair,
 It opens with perennial grace,
 And blossoms every-where.

On waste and woodland, rock and plain,
 Its humble buds unheeded rise ;
 The ROSE has but a Summer-reign,—
 The DAISY never dies.*

The list which we have just given is of the dietetic or agricultural plants, natives of this county ; and, as we before remarked, may nearly all be found in the meadows and grounds bordering on the *Dove*. Besides these, Mr. Pitt has given a most interesting and extensive list of the other most remarkable plants, trees, and shrubs ; being such, generally, as he himself observed. The list occupies nearly twenty-four pages ; † and to those who feel an interest, or a pleasure, in such kind of pursuits, it is certainly a pleasing and highly valuable addition to his volume, than which a more interesting, correct, or well-drawn up account has not appeared of all the reports published by the Board of Agriculture. This is not the place, even had we room, to particularize these plants. The list includes all those mentioned by Mr. Gough in his *Additions to Camden*, and

* Montgomery's *Wanderer of Switzerland*, and other poems ; a volume of poems than which, as a lady, herself one of the first and best of our female bards, observed to the writer of this, a more pleasing one had not appeared these fifty years.

† Appendix to his *Agr. Sur.* p. 287—290.

and a great many others. The most remarkable and common indigenous vegetable productions, besides those we have already named, and several weeds, and plants of local growth, amount in number to two hundred and eleven. Besides these there is an extensive list of the commonly cultivated plants of this county, to which the author has very properly added the generic and specific names of Linnæus. This list contains forty different kinds of plants: ten of fruits; and fifty-five garden flowers most commonly cultivated: including some medical plants, trees, and shrubs. The whole of this botanical catalogue contains the names of 316 plants, &c. besides many others noticed in various parts of the work including those which we have above selected.

As it is not our intention to revert to this subject any more, and having already glanced at it, in an early part of these volumes,* we will finish it by enumerating the *rare plants* of this county, as given by Mr. Gough:†

“*Aster Tripolium*. Sea Starwort: at *Ingestre*, in a place called the *Marsh*, within two miles of Stafford, near the place where the brine of itself breaks out above ground.

Avena nuda. Naked Oats, or Pilcorn: in corn fields.

Campanula latifolia. Giant throat-wort: in the mountainous parts of this county.

Euphorbia Characias. Red Spurge: on the paper-mill pool-dam, in *Heywood Park*.

Fumaria claviculata. Climbing Fumitory: on the banks of the river *Trent*, not far from *Wolseley*.

Lichen pyxidatus cocciferus. Red Liver wort: or Scarlet-headed Chalice-moss: on mole-hills in *Cank-wood*, and in *Fair Oak* and *Wolseley Park*.

Lycopodium clavatum. Club-moss, or Wolves-claw: on the mountains.

Phallus impudicus. Stinking Morel, or Stinkhorns: in the park

* Vide ante, p. 741.

† Gough's *Camd.* II. p. 518.

park at *Bentley*, and lanes thereabout; at *Old Kallings*, and elsewhere, near *Wolverhampton*.

Sambucus nigra. White-berried elder; in the hedge near *Combridge*, in *Rocester* parish, plentifully.

Vaccinium Vitis idæa. Red Whorts, or whortle-berries; on the mountains."

Returning to the neighbourhood of *Ilam*, already briefly named, we stop once more, to notice a few particulars worthy of remark in these parts.

Erdeswicke, * says the "*Manifold*, having left *Throwley*, runneth down to *Ilam*, by *Casterne*, sometime *Ipstone's* lands, from which it descended to the *Walkers*, in which name it continued for a space, until this our age, that one of them sold it to *Lawrence Wright*, and having past *Ilam* enters into *Dove*." This collector does not mention the family of the *Portes*, they are the same family with those of *Etwall*, in *Derbyshire*; for *Sir John Porte*, of that place, calls them cousins in his will.†

Wingfield lord *Cromwell*, earl of *Ardglass* in *Ireland*, inheriting from his mother *Elizabeth*, daughter and sole heir of *Robert Meverell*, Esq.‡ the neighbouring seat of *Throwley*, upon his death, Oct. 3rd, 1649, was buried in the church at *Ilam*. In this church, the following epitaph is worthy of being copied, being the production of *Cotton*, the dramatic writer, and not appearing in any addition of his works :

" Epitaph on the monument of
Robert Port, Esq.

" Virtue in these good times, that beed good men,

" No testimony crav'd of tongue or pen ;

VOL. XIII.

D U U

No

* *Staffordshire*, Harl. MSS. 1990, p. 68.

† *Visitation of Staffordshire*, 1614.

‡ *Robert Meverell*, Esq. died February 5th, 1627; his widow, August 5th 1638, and were both buried, in the church at *Blore*. See *Noble's Cromwell*, Vol. II. p. 8, 9.

No marble columns, nor engraven brass,
 To tell the world that such a person was;
 For them, each pious act to fair descent
 Stood for the worthy owner's monument;
 But in this change of manners, and of states,
 Good names, though writ in marble, have their fates
 Such is the barb'rous and irreverent rage,
 That arms the rebble of this impious age.
 Yet may this happy stem, that bears a name,
 (Such as no bold survivor dares to claim,)
 To ages yet unborn unblemish'd stand,
 Safe from the stroke of an inhuman hand.

Here, reader, here a PORT'S ad relies lie,
 To teach the careless world mortality;
 Who while he mortal was, unrival'd stood,
 The crown and glory of his ancient blood;
 Fit for his prince's, and his country's trust,
 Pious to God, and to his neighbour just;
 A loyal husband to his latest end,
 A gracious father, and a faithful friend:
 Belov'd he liv'd, and died o'ercharged with years,
 Fuller of honours than of silver hairs;
 And to sum up his virtues, this was he,
 Who was what all we should, but cannot be."

Thus have we taken a brief view of the chief beauties not only of these moorland districts, the neighbourhood of *Dovedale*, and the places adjacent along the borders of Derbyshire in general, but of nearly the whole county. We shall now hasten to a conclusion of our topographical survey, just premising, that, in districts where few or no antiquarian remains are to be discovered, and where the works of art in general do not often occur to arrest the attention; the description has necessarily been confined, for the most part, to such of the works of nature as in the most prominent manner presented themselves to our observation. And it must be confessed, that the northern parts of this highly interesting county make up in grandeur of scenery, in the richness of their mineral productions,

ductions, and in many places, even in the extent of their botanical, and agricultural resources, for the want of historical importance, or architectural and antiquarian relics.

Though still in those parts denominated *moorlands*, most of the parts which yet remain to be noticed by no means deserve to be so termed; hence we consider ourselves as having passed the real boundaries of those moorland districts, over which we have conducted the reader, without any direct or pre-determined plan, calling his attention to such objects and places, as seemed to us to demand observation, however remote from each other, or however we may have found it needful, occasionally to retrace our steps, and revisit scenes before described. It has been a ramble over some of the most picturesque and sublime portions of our island; which, however, have but seldom called forth the attention of the topographer, or the researches of the antiquary. We now proceed to notice the thriving and flourishing town of Leek; still holding ourselves free to notice any place, which may not yet have been sufficiently described.

LEEK.

This town of late years has considerably increased in its trade and manufactures. In Camden's time it was said to have a good market. The button trade is not now very extensive; but in silk and mohair works it has considerable manufactories. Though the war has certainly very materially affected the trade of this and other manufacturing towns, yet at present there are few towns more amply provided with the necessary means of rendering the sober and industrious parts of its inhabitants happy and comfortable. In 1808, when Mr. Pitt's Survey was last published, as he informs us, upon information derived from Messrs. Sleigh and Alsop, and Phillips and Ford, in the manufactory of sewing silks, twist, buttons, ribbons, silk-ferrets, shawls, and silk-handkerchiefs, there were employed about two thousand inhabitants of the town, and one

thousand of the adjacent country. To this information Mr. Pitt adds, that in this trade some good fortunes have been made, and it has been very flourishing; but the check on paper credit,* which in a great measure hurt the confidence of all connexions, diminished the trade here; and the war must, in some degree, have damped the demand for it abroad: yet the trade is now in a flourishing state.*

Since these remarks were made by Mr. Pitt, the trade has increased considerably. The nearness of *Leek* to *Macclesfield*, in *Cheshire*, being only about thirteen miles distant, has doubtless tended very materially to increase the silk-trade of the former place. The late *Mr. Pratt*, of *Leek*, from whom this information is in part derived, and whose death every one, who had the pleasure of his acquaintance must sincerely lament, employed many hands; but, from information given to the writer of these observations, by two very extensive and highly respectable silk manufacturers of *Macclesfield*,† it appears that the chief support of the town, as to its trade, is that derived from the extensive works of *Messrs. Phillips and Ford*, and *Mr. Alsop*.‡ The Cotton trade, for several years past, has been (if we may be allowed the figure) travelling with a somewhat regular pace, from some parts of *Lancashire*, through *Cheshire* into *Derbyshire* and *Staffordshire*. *Leek* has, however, as yet partaken but in a small degree of this once flourishing and lucrative branch of manufacture.

The market, which is on Wednesdays, is still good; and there are now seven annual fairs, chiefly for cattle and pedlars goods. The church has a square tower, with six bells; but has nothing very remarkable, either in its monuments or architectural antiquities. In the church-yard, at the south-east corner of the chancel, stand the remains of a pyramidal cross.

It

* Pitt's Agr. Sur. p. 436.

† Gervase Ward, Esq. and Daniel Brinsley, Esq.

‡ Messrs. Gaunt, and Co. also carry on a pretty extensive trade in sewing-silks, &c.

It is about ten feet high, having three steps at the foot. It is adorned with imagery and fret-work; but has no inscription to designate its origin or precise objects. There are several such in various places, as we have already noticed; particularly in the church-yards of *Chebsey, Ilam, and Checkley*, "serving," says Mr. Gough, "where single as crosses; where more, as sepulchral monuments, probably of the Danes."* This stone is, we think, not of Danish origin, though it is usually so denominated.

Besides the church, which is a vicarage in the patronage of the earl of Macclesfield, valued in the King's books at seven pounds, nine shillings, and one penny half-penny, here are meeting-houses for the Dissenters. The Methodists are numerous here, as in other places abounding with labourers, mechanics, and manufacturers. They have lately built a very large and handsome Meeting-house.

Here are also eight alms-houses, endowed in the year 1696 by Elizabeth Ash, widow, eldest daughter of William Jolliffe, of this place,† for eight poor widows, who are allowed two shillings per week, and seven shillings and five pence three farthings twice a year for coals, and a new gown once in two years.

The population of Leek, according to the census we have hitherto, for the most part, followed, consists of 4,186 inhabitants, (viz.) 1,912 males, and 2,274 females, of which number 2,611 were returned as being employed in trades and manufactures, principally in those of ribbons, silk, twist, and buttons, as we have already seen. The number of houses was 867, a number, we are persuaded, much below the real amount. The very flourishing and thriving silk-trade every year adds

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* Add. Camd. II. p. 515.

† Collins confounds this name with that of "Thomas Jolley of Buglawton, in Cheshire, Esq." whose daughter, Elizabeth, married Rowland Hill of *Hanstone*, in Shropshire, Esq. Collins's *Peerage*, VIII. p. 34. and Shaw's *Staffordshire*, II. p. 44. apud Sir E. Brydges's Ed. of Collins, *ubi supra*.

to the population and prosperity of this town. This population, however, is much checked by the practice of employing very young children of both sexes, in the silk-mills. At Macclesfield, where the same trade is carried on to a still far greater extent, there are perhaps more lame, deformed, and prematurely old persons, owing, as we apprehend, to this practice, than in any other town of the same population, in the United Kingdom; and Leek partakes, in a proportionate extent, of this calamity. Nor is this the only evil attending these manufactories. Where such great numbers of young persons are promiscuously associated in the same rooms, improper connexions are almost unavoidably formed; and perhaps nothing but the general prevalence, and daily increasing influence, of Methodism, which finds its way into most of these manufactories, prevents them from becoming a public nuisance of the most dangerous nature. The numerous evils of enthusiasm, particularly the corrosive vice of slander, of which it is the fruitful source, are more than counterbalanced by the spirit of subordination, and the outward decorum which even the semblance of true religion produces. These observations will apply, with still greater force, to the many cotton manufactories, which are common in various parts of these districts. Nor can the evils, of which we complain, be checked, except by the most watchful care and unremitting attention of the principal conductors of these works; an attention, we are persuaded, that is by no means wanted in most of the principal houses that have come under our observation, whether at Leek or at Macclesfield. Such men are a real blessing to society; and many such, we know, there are in these manufactories.

This town is remarkable also for the following singular circumstance. By the intervention of one of those craggy mountains which we have already described, at a considerable distance westward of the town, the sun sets twice in the same evening at a certain time of the year; for after it sets behind the top of the mountain, it breaks out again on the northern side

side of it, which is steep, before it reaches the horizon in its fall. So that within a very few miles, the inhabitants have the *rising-sun* when he has, in fact, past his meridian, as at *Narrowdale*, before noticed, and the *setting-sun* twice in the space of a very few hours, as here at *Leek* !

The manor was the estate of one Algarus Ca. before the Conquest; and in the Conqueror's hands, *Reg.* 20; but it was, 6th Stephen, the estate of Ranulph de Gernois, the 4th earl of Chester, a great man in King Stephen's time, in whose reign, Anno Dom. 1153, he died, being poisoned, as it was suspected, by William Peverell and others. His wife Maud, daughter of Robert, earl of Gloucester, base son of king Hen. I. was the foundress of *Repton priory*, in Derbyshire, and, surviving her husband, in the 32nd of Henry II. held the lordship of *Wadington* in dowry.* Ranulph was a person of singular piety in his days; and, among many other benefactions, to divers monasteries in several counties, as to the nuns of Chester, monks of Geroudon in Leicestershire, &c. he gave the tythes of his mill in this place to the monks of St. Werberge, at Chester. His heir and successor in his earldom was Hugh, surnamed Kivielock, a town in Rowis in Merionethshire, where he was born. He died at his seat in this town, in the year 1181, 27 Hen. II. and was succeeded by Ranulph, his son and heir, who gave this manor to the monks of the abbey of Dieu le Creyse, adjoining.†

That the Romans made frequent incursions into these parts is evident from various concurring circumstances; and that the neighbourhood of Leek, in particular, has been the scene of some signal action, fought between the Britons, and their invaders, is clear from the circumstance of several pieces of Roman and British arms having been, from time to time, discovered in its immediate vicinity. Dr. Plot,‡ speaking of the manner in which the Britons used to head their arrows, writes thus :

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" Nor

* See the Topographer, Vol. II. p. 256.

† Magna Brit. Vol. V. p. 92.

‡ P. 386, 387.

"Nor did the Britons only head their arrows with flint, but also their *matara*, or British darts, which were thrown by those that fought in Essedis,* whereof I guess this is one I had given me, found near *Leek*, by my worthy friend, Mr. Thomas Gent, curiously jagged at the edges with such like teeth as a sickle, and otherwise wrought upon the flat,† by which we may conclude, not only that these arrow and spear-heads are all artificial, whatever is pretended, but also that they had anciently some way of working flints, by the tool, which may be seen by the marks, as well as they had of the Egyptian porphyry." Whatever truth there may be in this conjecture, it is enough for our present purpose to shew, as we have just remarked, that these warlike instruments, found in this part, prove the extent of the Roman invasion, into these remote districts of the kingdom; and the reluctance with which the aboriginal inhabitants of these islands yielded to the power of their invaders.

This town gave birth to the founder of the earldom of Macclesfield. The family was founded by THOMAS PARKER, the person of whom we now proceed to give some account. He was the son of Thomas Parker, an attorney of this place. The name was originally written Le Parker, as is evident from our records. William le Parker, in 1271,‡ had a grant of free warren in all his lands in Eccles, Lesingham, Hapesburg, Brumsted, and Shaleham, in the county of Norfolk. Thomas Parker § was seated at Bulwel, and was a person of such ample possessions, that in the reign of Richard II. he married Elizabeth, daughter and heir of Adam de Gotham, son of Thomas de Gotham of Lees, son of Roger de Gotham of Lees, near Norton in the county of Derby, of which lordship he was also owner, and now retains the name of Norton Lees. He had
by

* C. Jul. Cæsar's Commentarior. de bello Gallico, lib. 4.

† Dr. Plot has given a drawing of this: Tab. XXXII. Fig. 2.

‡ Cart. 56. Hen. III. p. 1.

§ Ex Stemmate, and Visit. of Derbyshire, 1611.

by the same Eliz. three sons: Robert who continued the line; Thomas of *Norton Lees*, who had an only daughter, married to Thomas Moore of *Green Hill*; and William seated at *Shirland* in Derbyshire.

Robert Parker, his eldest son, was seated at *Norton Lees*, and with his younger brother William, was certified in 12 Hen. VI. among the gentlemen of the county of Derby,* who then, pursuant to an act of Parliament, made oath for the observance of the laws, for themselves and retainers.

Robert, having married Elizabeth, daughter and coheir of John Birley, of *Barnes*, had issue several children; of whom the eldest son, John Parker of *Norton Lees*, was of full age in the 12 Hen. VI; for he also, being written of *Norton*,† made oath with his father for the observation of the laws. This John married Ellen, daughter of Roger North, of Walksingham, in Nottinghamshire, ancestor to the present earl of Guilford, by whom he had issue five sons, and four daughters: John Parker of *Norton Lees*, the eldest, married Elizabeth, daughter to Ralph Eyre, of *Alfreton*, and had issue three sons; John, Henry, and Anthony; and a daughter, Margaret.

Henry, the fourth son of John Parker, by Hellen North, was groom of the chamber to Henry VIII. but left no issue. William the fifth was sewer to that king, and seated at *Luton*, in Bedfordshire; and married Margaret, daughter to John Wroth, of *Durane*, in *Enfield*, in Middlesex, Esq. by whom he had an only daughter Barbara his heir, married to John Wickham of *Enfield*, father by her of William Wickham. Thomas Parker, second brother to the said Henry and William, married —, daughter and heir of — Parker, of his own family, by whom he had issue William Parker, of *Ashborne* in Derbyshire, who had three sons; George Parker of *Nether Lees*; Rowland and Edward. George married Barbara, daughter of — *Busley*, of Berkshire, and had issue William Parker, of *Parwick* in Derbyshire, who died in 1634, aged seventy-

* Fuller's Worthies, in Derbyshire.

† Fuller, ubi supra.

seventy-eight, having wedded Elizabeth, daughter to Humphry Wilson, and had issue Thomas Parker, the father of the Chancellor, of whom we now proceed to give such an account as the scanty materials, that have been recorded of him will afford.

Under the direction of his father, he first applied himself to the study of the laws, and grew so eminent in his profession, that he was appointed one of the council to queen Anne; and, being called to the degree of serjeant at law, June 8th 1705, the motto of the rings delivered on that occasion to queen Anne, and prince George of Denmark, was *Moribus, Aquis, Legibus*. He was the same day appointed the queen's serjeant, and had the honour of knighthood conferred on him. He was member of Parliament for Derby, from 1705 to 1708. On March 5, 1709-10, he was constituted lord chief justice of the court of King's Bench; and, on the demise of the queen, was one of the lords justices, till the arrival of her successor from Hanover; who, on March 10th, 1715-16, created him a baron of this kingdom, by the style and title of lord Parker, baron of Macclesfield, in the county of Chester.

Bishop Burnet* says that he had just been one of the managers of Sacheverell's trial; and distinguished himself in a very particular manner in it. On the death of Holt, the lord chief justice, which took place during this celebrated trial, Parker was constituted in his place, "which great promotion," says Burnet, "seemed an evident demonstration of the Queen's approving the prosecution; for none of the managers had treated Sacheverell so severely as he had done; yet secret whispers were pretty confidently set about, that though the Queen's affairs put her on acting the part of one that was pleased with this scene, yet she disliked it all, and would take the first occasion to shew it."

To return to the time of Parker's elevation to the title of baron: Nearly two years after this honour, his majesty was pleased to deliver the Great Seal to his lordship, and to de-

clare

* Own Time, Vol. II. p. 510—513.

glare him chancellor of Great Britain; and on the 14th of May 1718, two days afterwards, he was sworn at Kensington, the king present in council, and took his place at the board accordingly: he was congratulated upon his promotion, by the university of Cambridge. He was one of the lords justices, whilst George the first was at Hanover; being so appointed May 9th 1719. On June the 4th of that year, he was appointed Custos Rotulorum of the county of Worcester. On the fifth of November 1721,* he was advanced to the dignities of Viscount Parker of *Ewelme*, in Oxfordshire, and earl of Macclesfield, in the county of Chester, in tail male, to hold the dignities of lady Parker, baroness of Macclesfield, viscountess Parker of *Ewelme*, and countess of Macclesfield, to Elizabeth his daughter, wife of William Heathcote, Esq. and to the heirs male of her body.

This tide of honour was suddenly interrupted: for in June, 1735, his lordship was impeached on charges of corruption; was tried at the bar of the house, and unanimously pronounced guilty; in consequence of which he was removed from his high office, and fined 30,000l.† This was certainly a heavy and severe sentence; which, had this unfortunate chancellor lived and erred in later times, would doubtless have passed away as one of those many things which, however, our forefathers might have shuddered at them, are now as common and as obvious "as the sun at noon-day."

Of this distinguished, but unfortunate earl, Mr. Noble‡ writes as follows: "This every way distinguished character was the son of Thomas Parker, an attorney at Leake, in Staffordshire; in the chancel of which church I have read the inscription on his grave-stone. He left his son about 100l. per annum. He received the Great Seal, May 11th, § 1708, which he

* Bill signat. 8 Geo. I.

† Coote's History of England, Vol. VIII. 265, et seq.

‡ Continuation of Granger's Biog. Hist. of England, III. p. 98.

§ It was delivered May 12th.

he held till January 4th, 1724-5. It was an extraordinary event, that lord Macclesfield, one of the great ornaments of the peerage, who had so long presided at the administration of justice, should himself be arraigned as a criminal; be convicted of mal-practices; and sentenced to pay a fine of 30,000*l.* as a punishment for his offence: that a second lord chancellor of England should be impeached by the grand Inquest of the nation, for corruption of office; and be, like his great predecessor, lord St. Albans, found guilty of the charge. The prosecution was carried on with great virulence; and though rigid justice, indeed, demanded a severe sentence; yet party zeal and personal animosity were supposed to have had their weight in that which was passed upon him. The whole fine was exacted, and actually paid by his lordship and his son, notwithstanding the favourable disposition that was shewn in a certain quarter, to relieve him in part by a considerable donation. It is certain, there had been gross mismanagement in the offices of the masters in Chancery, by which the suitors had been great sufferers; and it appeared that those places had been sometimes conferred upon persons, who had evidently paid for them a valuable consideration. The public cry against corruption in high stations was loud and long; and it was not thought prudent to stay proceedings against the supreme judge in the kingdom. The statute on which the chancellor was impeached had, indeed, grown into disuse; but it was still a law: a breach of it was proved, and the consequence was inevitable. Lord Macclesfield was a man of learning, and a patron of it. Bishop Pearce of Rochester, among others, owed his first introduction to preferment to his lordship's encouragement. He was also very eminent for his skill in his profession; but rather great than amiable in his general character. He was austere, and not deemed sufficiently attentive to the gentlemen of his court, to whom his manners are represented to have been harsh and ungracious, unlike the mild and complacent behaviour of his predecessor, lord Cowper.

per. His lordship passed the remainder of his life in a learned retirement, much devoted to the studies of religion, of which he had always been a strict and uniform observer." Such is the character of this great man, (for, after all, he was a great man,) given by a learned and able pen: but how wilful corruption—criminal mal-practices—an abuse of the most exalted trusts and privileges—harsh, ungracious, and domineering dispositions, can be reconciled with a *strict* and *uniform* observance of religious duties, does not, to us, appear quite obvious.

His lordship married Janet, daughter and co-heir of Charles Carrier of *Wirkworth*, in Derbyshire; and by her had issue, George the second earl of Macclesfield; and the lady Elizabeth, before mentioned. He died * at his son's house, in Soho-square, in the sixty-sixth year of his age, on April 28th, 1732, and was buried at *Shirburn* in Oxfordshire; esteemed for the social virtues of a husband, parent, and master, by every one to whom he stood in those relations.

His lordship's son George, the second earl of Macclesfield, was distinguished as a scholar, and the steady promoter of literature and science. He was president of the Royal Society, and member of many foreign academies; and rendered himself otherwise remarkable, for being zealous in procuring the alteration of the style;† but, as his lordship was not born at Leek, his biography does not properly belong to this place.

At a small distance north of Leek is *Dieu le Creyse*, or rather *Dieu Encres*, now commonly called *Deluores*, where was an abbey built by Ranulph, the third earl of Chester, and at the Dissolution given, with most of its appurtenances, to Sir Ralph Baggenholt, by King Edward VI. for his advancement; but Sir Ralph dispersed it abroad, and gave it partly to the poor, for he sold it almost all to the tenants, who held it, to every one his own, at so small a price,

that

* Park's Royal and Noble Authors, Vol. IV. p. 145.

† See Sir E. Brydges's Collins's Peerage, Vol. IV. p. 194.

that they were able to make the purchase, and then spent the money gentlemanlike, leaving his son nothing but his natural endowments, which proved sufficient to raise him to an equal dignity with his father; and it is likely to as good or better an estate; for he was for his valour knighted at Calais, Anno 1598.*

This, as the same author informs us,† was an abbey of Cistercian Monks; and the following legend is mentioned, as immediately connected with its foundation and name: "Upon this occasion, the ghost of earl Ranulph's grandfather appeared to him one night, when he was in bed, and bid him go to a place called *Cholpesdale*, within the territory of *Leek*, and there he should find a chapel dedicated to the blessed virgin, and form there an abbey of White monks, and endow it; for by it," said the ghost, "there shall be joy to thee and many others who shall be saved thereby. Of this it shall be a sign, when the Pope doth interdict England. But do thou, in the mean time, go to the monks of *Pulton*, and be partaker of the sacrament of the Lord's Supper; and, in the seventh year of that interdict, thou shalt translate those monks to the place I have appointed." Ranulph having had this vision, related it to Clementia his wife, who, hearing it, said in French: "*Dieu encre!*—*God increase*," whereupon the Earl, pleased with the expression, said: "The name of the place shall be *Dieu le cres*, which is now corrupted to *Diculacres*. This house, being thus founded, was furnished accordingly with monks, of the Cistercian order, from *Pulton* in Cheshire, which was built in this earl's name, by Robert de Pincerna, or Butler his servant, and well endowed by the earl himself, with divers lands and possessions, which his successors, earls of Chester, confirmed, and made considerable additions to it. Robert de Menilwannin also gave to the monks of this house, "for the health of his soul," and of Ranulph, earl of Chester and Lincoln, and his mother's brother, in pure and perpetual alms, free common in the

* Mag. Brit. V. p. 103.

† P. 149, et seq.

the wood of *Pevero*, with housebote, and haybote, and pawnsage for fifty hogs."

At the Dissolution; according to Speed; it was valued at 249l. 3s. 6d. Afterwards its site, with the lands, and other things of value belonging to it, was given, as we have above stated, by Edward VI. to Sir Ralph Baggenholt. Thus was the property—the true and rightful property,—of pious and innocent persons torn from their owners, by these reformers in Religion, and squandered away on the favourites of princes, who themselves had no more moral or legal claim to such property, than the king of England, at the present day, has to the house, in which we are now writing, or to the pen that records this testimony against the rapacity and persecutions of interested reformers. There are still some remains of this abbey; and, on the site, is now an abbey of French nuns!

Rushton Spencer. The name of this place would seem to indicate, that it must, at some period, have been the estate of some of the Spenser family. There is another place at no great distance from this, called *Rushton James*, which formerly belonged to one James. In the former of these places they point out a small well, which the people of the neighbourhood call *St. Helen's Well*. It is so plentifully supplied by a spring, that (joined by another of equal force) supply water to a pretty large reservoir, belonging to a cotton-mill, when we visited it, occupied by Mr. Peter Goostry, who employed many of the neighbouring people, in the spinning of cotton wools for the Manchester market. This well is remarkable for some singular qualities: It sometimes happens that it will become suddenly dry after a constant discharge of water for eight or ten years. This happens as well in wet as in dry seasons, and always at the beginning of May, when the springs are commonly esteemed highest; and so it usually continues, till *Martinmas*, Nov. 12, following. The people imagine, that when this happens, there will soon follow some stupendous calamity of famine, war, or some other great national

tional disaster, or change. They say that it grew dry before the late civil war, and again before the beheading of king Charles I; and also against the great scarcity of corn in 1670; and lastly in 1679, when what is ridiculously, and falsely, called the Popish plot, was discovered. Mr. Peter Goostry, whose influence in this neighbourhood was considerable, being himself an intelligent man, helped materially to bring these superstitious notions into contempt. We could not learn that *St. Helen's Well* suddenly withheld its supplies previous to, or upon, the breaking out of the present war, which has certainly operated as much to the prejudice of the poor inhabitants of this neighbourhood, as any other calamity that has befallen them these two centuries past.

The little rural chapel of this parish stands upon a considerable eminence, near this singular well; but has nothing remarkable, in its history or construction. The hamlet contains about sixty-four houses; one of the best of which is a large brick building, once occupied by Mr. Goostry; and subsequently by Mr. Thomas Ball, a worthy and ingenious person, now, we believe, of Macclesfield.

Field, south of Leek, was, in king Henry's time, given by one Jeffrey, abbot of Burton, to one *Andrew*, in fee-farm for the rent of 20l. per annum; but afterwards Nicholas, abbot of the same house, gave the same, with the homages and services, (Jeffery S. Maur being then the farmer thereof,) to his brother Bertram de Verdon, in exchange for certain lands of his in *Stephenhall*, of which one Roisia (Margaret) was heir, being the daughter and heir of some of the Staffords; she had for her second husband Sir Thomas Pipe, and by him had Sir Robert Pipe, Knt. She had two other sons by Sir Thomas Pipe, John and Thomas, who took on them the name of S. Maur. Thomas's son William passed all his lands to Sir James Pipe, the son of Sir Robert, by which means, in king Richard's reign, this manor came into the possession of Sir John Bagot, whose heirs were

were owners of it in 1659. The river *Blithe* runs through this village.

In this parish grew a prodigious Witch-Elm, felled by Sir Harvey Bagot, in whose ground it grew, and who was the proprietor of it, the bigness of which being so well attested by the surveyor of it, and other living witnesses in 1680, well deserves a description: "Two able workmen were five days in stocking or felling it. It was one hundred and twenty feet in length. At the butt-end it was seven yards in circumference. Its girth was twenty-five feet and a half in the middle. Fourteen loads of fire-wood, as much as six oxen could draw to the house of *Field*, being not above three hundred yards distant, broke off in the fall. There were forty-seven loads more of firewood, as large as the former, cut from the top. They were compelled to fasten two saws together, and put three men to each end, to cut the body of it asunder. Out of this most astonishing tree were cut eighty pairs of nathes, for carriage wheels, and 8000 feet of sawn timber in boards and planks, at six score per cent, which, for the sawing only, as the price of labour then was, came to the sum of twelve pounds."

These facts being thought of so much importance, it was deemed requisite to establish their truth on a permanent basis; accordingly, they were attested by the hand-writing of every person immediately concerned, from lord Bagot, the owner, to the persons who actually stubbed the tree, and cut it down.

The number of "*Turns*," according to the scantling just mentioned, it was computed to contain (after their gross country way of measure) were ninety six of solid timber; "a vast quantity indeed," adds Plot, "for one tree, and well requiring ample testimony to render it credible: but whoever will take the pains to cast it nicely, and more artificially, will find that it must contain one hundred *tons* at least, of neat timber, a fifth part (which is sufficient in such large *batts*) being allowed for the waste of rind, chips, &c. For supposing this tree

gradually to taper from a base, to such a length, multiplying the area of the base, by a third part of the length, one hundred *tons* will be found a very modest account, all allowances being granted, that can reasonably be desired." The height of this tree, according to the same author, could not be less than forty yards; and yet he mentions a fir-tree, growing at *Warton*, in the parish of *Norbury*, which grew at least seven yards higher than this, "out of which," says he, "perhaps as wonderful a piece of timber might be cut, as was out of the *Larch-tree*, mentioned by Pliny, brought to Rome with other timber for rebuilding the bridge *Naumachiaria*, in Tiberius Cæsar's time, that contained in length forty yards, or one hundred and twenty feet, and carried in thickness every way two feet from one end to the other, which the emperor would not use, but commanded it to be laid in a public place in open view, as a singular and *miraculous* monument to all posterity, where it remained entire, till the emperor Nero built his stately amphitheatre.*"

And yet neither of these equalled the firs that Chabræus mentions, as growing in his time in the wood called *Thamewald*, in the territory of *Bern*, whereof some were two hundred and thirty feet; above seventy-six yards high, exceeding the tallest of these in Staffordshire, by nearly one hundred feet, or full thirty yards.†

It is not improper in this place to notice the principal places in this county wherein have been dug up, at various times, exceedingly large trunks of trees, which have been buried in the ground, as some have thought, since the universal Deluge. These have been found at *Laynton*, in *Pyrehill* hundred, at the old *Pewit pool* in *Norbury* parish, in *Cuddleston* Hundred; in *Stebben-pool*, in *High Offley*, in the moases, near *Eardley*, in *Audley* parish; and also near *Betley*, in *Pyrehill* hundred. Besides in these northern and western districts, such

* C. Plinii, 2nd, Nat. Hist. lib. XVI. cap. 40:

† Dominici Chabræi Stirp. Schlegelii, in App. ad Classen. 8vo. p. 608.

such trunks have been dug up in the southern parts : in *Cranmoor*, near *Wrottesley*; in *Rotten Meadow*, near *Wednesbury Hall*; on *Dorcy Common*, in the parish of *Gnosell*; in a place called *Peatsmoore*, at *Thorne*; and in the moors of *Handsworth*.

Dr. Plot discusses at some length the questions concerning the kinds or sorts of these trees; whether mineral or vegetable; and if vegetable, of what species; and if of this or that species, by what means they came to be thus buried. These questions, which are by no means uninteresting, are treated in an able and rational manner; and his conclusions from the whole are, that although "there certainly is a mineral substance, called *lignum fossile*, found in the earth representing the stumps and parts of the trunks of trees which never grew above ground like other vegetables;" yet that the trees found in these and other parts are certainly vegetable, from the circumstance of their having their roots joined to these, and the stumps of their branches issuing from them; and still more from the fact, that the timber of them swims in water, which *lignum fossile* will not do; and is still as liable to the axe, chissel, saw, or plane, as any other wood whatever. Plot then corrects one or two mistakes, into which Cæsar in his Commentaries had fallen, relative to the growth of *Fir*, (which many of these trees seem to be) in this country. From this error of Cæsar's have arisen the other, as Plot conjectures, that these trees were brought hither by the Deluge. This opinion is corrected by the fact of many of these trees having still the mark of the axe upon them; and the *stooles* or *stumps*, standing in an erect posture, as is the case with those at *Stebben*, *Laynton*, and *Pewit Pools*, as also those of *Aqualat*, in *Pyrehill* hundred.

To account for these firs, which he takes them to be, being found alone, there being other timber enough near all the places, which Plot saw, he conjectures, on the authority of some ancient writings, then in the possession of Viscount Gor-

manstow, that the Danes and Norwegians, when they had gotten good footing in our island, which they had for many years, like other conquerors, endeavoured to make this as like their own country as they could, and therefore planted there firs; which after they had grown for about two hundred years, either upon the total destruction of them throughout England in a day, in the time of king Ethelred;* or their final loss of all dominion here, after the death of Hardicanute, that no memorial whatever might remain of them, the trees they had planted were also cut down, and as many of them as grew in low moist lands, (lying convenient for portage,) neglected, and thus covered, in process of time, by attrition; those cut down upon the hills and higher grounds (lying readier at hand) having been spent in divers uses, many ages ago." This Dr. Plot offers only as a conjecture; but is decided that these subterraneous trees were not brought to their present places by any extraordinary flood, or other unusual operations of nature.†

Butterton is a small hamlet and chapelry to the parish of *Mayfield*. It is in the immediate neighbourhood of *Wetton* and *Ilam*, and bordering upon the place where the rivulets *Hamps* and *Manifold* make their subterraneous transit, which we have before noticed :

"Where *Hamps* and *Manifold* their cliffs among,
Each in his stinty channel winds along,
With lucid lines the dusky moor divide,
Hurrying to intermix their sister tides,

• • • • •
• • • • •

Three thousand steps in sparry clefts they stray,
Or seek, through sullen mines, their gloomy way;
On beds of lava sleep in coral cells,
Or sigh o'er jasper fish and agate shells,

Till

* Speed's History of Great Brit. Book VIII. chap. 44.

† Nat. Hist. Staff. p. 211—220.

Till where fam'd ILAM leads his boiling floods
 Thro' flowery meadows and impending woods,
 Pleased with light spring they leave the dreary night,
 And mid circumfluent surges rise to light :
 Shake their bright locks, the widening vale pursue,
 Their sea-green mantles fring'd with pearly dew,
 In playful groups by towering THORP they move,
 Bound o'er the foaming wears, and rush into the DOVE.*"

Horton is a parish about two miles and a half from *Leek*, containing about one hundred and fifty houses, and nearly eight hundred inhabitants. The living is a curacy.

Bradley, is a parish near *Cheadle*. It is at the utmost eastern extremity of *The Potteries*, of the manufactories of which a more minute description has been purposely deferred to this part of our work. The following account, we believe, will be found to contain a pretty correct description of this extensive manufacture ; both as to its origin and present state. Those parts of the county, where this manufacture is carried on, from the coal mines, which are plentiful there, seem better adapted, observes Dr. Aikin, for a manufactory of earthen wares than, perhaps, for any other. And here it is just to premise, that the substance of what follows on this subject is copied from the very accurate description of this sensible writer, who had it originally from a gentleman of great chemical knowledge, and thoroughly acquainted with the subject. The measures or strata, by which the beds of coal are divided, consist most commonly of clays of different kinds, some of which make excellent fire bricks, for building the potter's kilns and *saggars*, (a corruption of the German *Schrägers*, which signifies cases or supporters) in which the ware is burnt. Finer clays, of various colours and textures, are likewise plentiful in many places, most of them near the surface of the earth ; and of these the bodies of the wares themselves were formerly manufactured. The coals being then also got near

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the

* Darwin's Bot. Gard. Pt. II. in Aikin's *Manchester*, p. 99.

the surface, were plentiful and cheap. In the time of Plot,* they were as low as twopence the horse load, which, at eight horse-loads to a ton, (the usual estimation,) amounts to only sixteen pence the ton. In 1795 the price of coals was from four to five shillings per ton at the works. Since that time a regular advance has taken place. In 1804 they were from seven to eight shillings; and they are now much higher. The land, having chiefly a clay bottom, was unfavourable to the productions of husbandry; and the remoteness of these districts from the principal seats of commerce contributed to render labour cheap. All these circumstances considered together, with some others which will be mentioned hereafter, may possibly afford the best answer to a question, which has often been asked, why the pottery was established in *Staffordshire*, preferably to any other place, and why it still continues to flourish there more than in any other part of the kingdom, or perhaps of the world.

It is impossible, now, to ascertain the exact length of time, since this manufacture was first established here. It can be traced with certainty for more than two centuries back; but no document or tradition remains of its first introduction. Its principal seat was formerly the town of *Burslem*; and it was then called a butter pottery, that is, a manufactory of pots for keeping butter. It is so denominated in some old maps. Camden, who died in 1623, does not appear to have heard of the existence of this trade, nor is any mention made of *butter pottery* in Speed's map of 1610. One of the earliest authors, who notices it, is Dr. Plot, who died in 1696, and published his *Natural History* of this county in 1686. As a proof, however, of the antiquity of the manufacture in this neighbourhood, it may be proper to mention, that about ninety years ago, below the foundation of a building, then taken down, and supposed to have been not less than one hundred

* Nat. Hist. of Staff. chap. III. where the subjects of both the *pottery*, and of the *Staffordshire coal*, are amply treated.

dred years old, the bottom of a potter's kiln was discovered; with some of the seggars upon it, and pieces of the ware in them; and that about the same time a road, which had long before been made across a field, being worn down into a hollow way, the hearth of a potter's kiln was found to be cut through by this hollow part of the road; and it was not among the then existing, or then remembered potteries, that these old works were discovered, but at a considerable distance, in places where no tradition remained among the oldest inhabitants of the neighbouring villages, that any pot-works had ever been. It may be added, that pieces of ware, of the rudest workmanship, and without any glaze or varnish, are frequently met with, in digging for the foundations of new erections. Though these old remains are doubtless the productions of distant periods, they give little or no light into the successive improvements, made in the art; nor, indeed, could any good purpose be answered by any inquiry of that kind; for though the manufacture has within our memory advanced with amazing rapidity to its present magnitude, it seems to have continued for a long series of years almost uniformly rude and uninteresting. Even so late as the time when Plot wrote, the quantity of goods manufactured was so inconsiderable, that "the chief sale of them was to the poor cratemmen, who carried them at their backs all over the country."* All the ware was then of the coarse yellow, red, black, and mottled kind made from clays found in the neighbourhood; the body of the ware being formed of the inferior kinds of clay, and afterwards painted or mottled with the finer coloured ones, mixed with water, separately or blended together, much in the same manner as paper is marbled. The common glaze was produced by lead ore, finely powdered, and sprinkled on the pieces of ware before firing; sometimes with the addition of a little manganese, for the sake of the brown colour it communicates; and where the potters wished "to shew the

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utmost

* Plot's Nat. Hist. Staff. p. 124.

utmost of their skill,"* in giving the ware a higher gloss than ordinary, they employed, instead of lead ore, calcined lead itself; but still sprinkled it on the pieces in the same rude manner.

A few years after the publication of Plot's work, a new species of glaze was introduced, produced by throwing into the kiln, when brought to its greatest heat, a quantity of common salt, the fumes of which occasioned a superficial vitrification of the clay. How long this practice might have subsisted in other countries is unknown; but it was first brought hither about the year 1690, by two ingenious foreigners of the name of *Elers*, of whom a descendant was, no long time ago, a respectable magistrate in the county of Oxford. These foreigners established a small pot-work at this place—*Bradley*—not we believe, *Bradwall*, as Dr. Aikin's correspondent writes. It is said that the inhabitants of *Burslem*, and the other adjacent places, flocked with astonishment to see the immense volumes of smoke, which rose "from the Dutchmen's ovens," on casting in the salt, a circumstance which sufficiently shews the novelty of this practice, in the *Staffordshire Potteries*. The same persons introduced likewise another species of ware, in imitation of the unglazed red China from the east; and the clays in this county being suitable for their purpose, they succeeded wonderfully for a first attempt, inasmuch that some of their tea-pots are said to have been sold as high as a guinea a piece; and some of the specimens, which still remain in the country, are very perfect in their kind. We have seen several of them, at different places south of Leek; in the farm-houses. Both the texture and quality of the ware itself, and the form and workmanship, are by no means contemptible, though much inferior to those of more recent manufacture. The *Elers*, however, did not long continue in this situation: finding the manufacturers about them very inquisitive, and not choosing

* Plot, p. 123.

choosing to have their labours so narrowly inspected, they quitted Staffordshire, and set up a manufacture near London.

This practice of the new glaze with salt was succeeded, in a short time, by a capital improvement in the body of the ware itself, which the tradition of the country attributes to the following incident: Mr. Artbury, one of the potters, in a journey to London, happened to have powdered flint recommended to him, by the hostler of his inn at *Dunstable*, for curing some disorder in one of his horse's eyes; and for that purpose a flint stone was thrown into the fire, to render it more easily pulverizable. The potter observing the flint to be changed by the fire, to a pure white, was immediately struck with the idea, that his ware might be improved, by an addition of this material, to the whitest clays he could procure. Accordingly he sent home a quantity of the flint stones, which are plentiful among the chalk in that part of the country; and, on trial of them with tobacco pipe-clay, the event proved fully answerable to his expectations. Thus originated the white stone ware, which soon supplanted the coloured ones, and continued for many years the staple branch of pottery.

It was natural that this discovery should be kept as secret as possible; hence they had the flints pounded in mortars, by manual labour in cellars or in private rooms; but the operation proved pernicious to many of the workmen, the fine dust getting into the lungs, and producing dreadful coughs and consumptions; and these alarming complaints of the men may be presumed to have hastened the discovery of the source from which they had arisen. The secret becoming generally known, the consequent increase of demand for the flint powder occasioned trials to be made of mills, of various constructions, for stamping and for grinding it; and the ill effects of the dust, which could not be entirely guarded against, when the stones were either pounded or ground dry, pointed out an addition of water in the grinding. This method being found effectual, as well as safe, is still continued: the ground flint comes from

the mill in a liquid state, about the consistence of cream ; and the tobacco-pipe clay being mixed up with water, about the same consistence, the two liquors are proportioned to one another by measure, instead of weight.

The use of flint had not been long introduced, when an improvement was made, by an ingenious mechanic in the neighbourhood, Mr. Alsager, in the potter's wheel, by which its motion was greatly accelerated. This enabled the potters to form their ware not only with greater expedition and facility, but likewise with more neatness and precision, than they had done before.

The manufacture, by those means, was so far improved, in the beginning of the last century, as to furnish various articles for tea and coffee equipages, and soon after for the dinner-table also. Before the middle of the century, these articles were manufactured in great quantity, as well for exportation, as home consumption. The salt-glaze, however, the only one then in use for these purposes, is in its own nature so imperfect, and the potters, from an injudicious competition among themselves, for cheapness rather than for excellence, had been so inattentive to elegance of forms, and neatness of workmanship, that this ware began to be rejected from genteel tables, and supplanted by a white ware of finer forms, and more beautiful glaze, which, about the year 1760, was imported in considerable quantities from France.

The introduction of a foreign manufacture, so much superior to our own, must have had very bad effects on the potteries of this kingdom, if a new one, still more to the public taste, had not happily soon after been produced here. In the year 1763, Mr. Josiah Wedgwood, who had already introduced several improvements into this art, as well with respect to the forms and colours of the wares, as the composition of which they were made, invented a species of earthenware for the table, of a firm and durable body, and covered with a rich and brilliant glaze, and bearing sudden vicissitudes of cold
and

and heat, without injury. It was accompanied also with the advantages of being manufactured with ease and expedition, was sold cheap; and as it possessed, with the novelty of its appearance, every requisite quality for the purpose intended, it came quickly into general estimation and use. To this manufacture the *Queen* was pleased to give her name and patronage, commanding it to be called *QUEEN'S WARE*, and honouring the inventor by appointing him her majesty's potter.

It is composed of the whitest clays from *Derbyshire*, *Dorsetshire*, and other places, mixed with a due proportion of ground flint. The pieces are fired twice, and the glaze applied after the first firing, in the same manner as porcelain. The glaze is a vitreous composition, of flint and other white earthy bodies, with additions of white lead for the flux, analogous to common flint glass; so that, when prepared in perfection, the ware may be considered as coated over with real flint glass. This compound being mixed with water to a proper consistence, the pieces, after the first firing, are separately dipped in it: being somewhat bibulous, they drink in a quantity of the mere water, and the glaze, which was united with that portion of the water, remains adherent, uniformly all over their surface, so as to become, by the second firing, a coat of perfect glass.

To Mr. Wedgwood's continued experiments, we are indebted for the invention of several other species of earthenware and porcelain, adapted to various purposes of ornament and use. The principal are the following: 1. *A TERRA COTTA*; resembling porphyry, granite, Egyptian pebble, and other beautiful stones of the siliceous or crystalline order. 2. *BASALTES*, or black ware; a black porcelain biscuit of nearly the same properties with the natural stone; striking fire with steel, receiving a high polish, serving as a touchstone for metals; resisting all the acids, and bearing, without injury, a strong fire, stronger indeed, than the *basaltes* itself. 3. *WHITE PORCELAIN BISCUIT*, of a smooth wax-like surface, of the same properties with the preceding, except in what depends upon

colour. 4. **JASPER**: a white porcelain biscuit of exquisite beauty and delicacy, possessing the general properties of the *basaltes*, together with the singular one of receiving through its whole substance, from the admixture of metallic calces with the other materials, the same colours which those calces communicate to glass or enamels in fusion, a property which no other porcelain or earthen-ware body, of ancient or modern composition, has been found to possess. This renders it peculiarly fit for making canoes, portraits, and all subjects in *basso relievo*, as the ground may be of any particular colour, while the raised figures are of pure white. 5. **BAMBOO**, or cane-coloured biscuit porcelain. This possesses the same properties as the *White porcelain biscuit*, mentioned above. 6. A **PORCELAIN BISCUIT**, remarkable for great *hardness*, little inferior to that of agate. This property, together with its resistance to the strongest acids and corrosives, and its impenetrability by every known liquid, adapts it for mortars, and many different kinds of chemical vessels.

These six distinct species, with the *Queen's ware* already mentioned, expanded by the industry and ingenuity of the different manufacturers, into an infinity of forms for ornament and use, variously painted and embellished, constitute nearly the whole of the present fine English earthen-wares and porcelain, which are now become the source of a very extensive trade, and which, considered as an object of national art, industry, and commerce, may be ranked among the most important manufactures of the united kingdom.

The following description of the process used in manufacturing the earthenware, was communicated to Dr. Aikin, by a person on the spot. The practice has varied in but a trifling manner since that time. A piece of prepared mixture of clay and ground flint, dried and prepared to a proper consistence, is taken to be formed into any required shape and fashion, by a man who sits over a machine called a wheel, on the going round of which he continues forming the ware.

This

This branch is called *throwing*; and, as water is required to prevent the clay sticking to the hand, it is necessary to place it for a short time in a warm situation. It then undergoes the operation of being turned, and is made much smoother than it was before, by a person called a turner; when it is ready for the handle and spout to be joined to it, by the branch called *handling*. Dishes, plates, tureens, and many other articles, are made from moulds of ground plaister; and, when finished, the whole are placed carefully (being then in a much more brittle state than when fired) in saggars, which, in shape and form, pretty much resemble a lady's band-box, without its cover, but much thicker, and are made from marle or clay of this neighbourhood. The larger ovens, or kilns, are placed full of saggars so filled with ware; and after a fire, which consumes from twelve to fifteen tons of coal, when the oven is become cool again, the saggars are taken out, and their contents removed, often exceeding 30,000 various pieces; but this depends upon the general sizes of the ware. In this state the ware is called *biscuit*, and the body of it has much the appearance of a new tobacco-pipe, not having the least gloss upon it. It is then immersed or dipped into a fluid generally consisting of sixty pounds of white lead, ten pounds of ground flint, and twenty pounds of stone from *Cornwall*, burned and ground, all mixed together, and as much water put to it as reduces it to the thickness of cream, which it resembles. Each piece of ware being separately immersed or dipped into this fluid, so much of it adheres all over the piece, that when put into other saggars, and exposed to another operation of fire, performed in the glossing-kiln or oven, the ware becomes finished by acquiring its glossy covering, which is given it by the vitrification of the above ingredients. Enamelled ware undergoes a third fire after its being painted, in order to bind the colour on.

A single piece of ware, such as a common enamelled teapot, a mug, jug, &c. passes through at least fourteen different hands,

hands, before it is finished : (viz.) The slipmaker, who makes the clay ;—the temperer, or beater of the clay ;—the thrower who forms the ware ;—the ball-maker and carrier ;—the attendant upon the drying of it ;—the turner, who does away its roughness ;—the spoutmaker ;—the handler, who puts to the handle and spout ;—the first, or biscuit fireman ;—the person who immerses or dips it into the lead fluid ;—the second, or glass fireman ;—the dresser, or sorter in the warehouse ;—the enameller, or painter ;—the muffle, or enamel fireman. Several more are required to the completion of such pieces of ware, but are in inferior capacities, such as turners of the wheel, turners of the lathe, &c. &c.*

The evidence given by Mr. Wedgwood to the committee of privy council, and at the bar of the two Houses of Parliament, when a commercial arrangement with Ireland was in agitation in 1785, will give some idea of the recent extent of this manufacture, and of its value to our maritime and landed, as well as commercial, interests. And the evidence of the present Mr. Wedgwood to the late committee of the House of Commons, on the celebrated Orders in Council, will shew the present state of this manufacture as a branch of commerce.

The late Mr. Wedgwood, in the evidence just alluded to, was of opinion, that through the manufacturing part alone in the potteries and their vicinity, they gave bread to fifteen or twenty thousand people, including the wives and children of those who were employed in it, yet that this was a small object, when compared with the many others which depend on it : namely, 1. The immense quantity of inland carriage it creates throughout the kingdom, both for its raw materials, and its finished goods :—2. The great number of people employed in the extensive collieries for its use :—3. The still greater number employed in raising and preparing its raw materials, in several distant parts of England, from near the *Land's End* in Cornwall one way, along different parts of the coast, to *Falmouth*,

* Aikin's Manchester, p. 534, 535.

Falmouth, Teignmouth, Exeter, Pool, Gravesend, and the Norfolk coast; the other way, to Biddeford, Wales, and the Irish coast:—4. The coasting vessels, which, after being employed at the proper season in the Newfoundland fishery, carry these materials coast-wise to Liverpool and Hull, to the amount of more than 20,000 tons yearly, at times when they would otherwise be laid up idle in harbour:—5. The further conveyance of them from those ports, by river and canal navigation, to the potteries situated at one of the most inland parts of this kingdom:—and, 6. The re-conveyance of the finished goods to the different parts of this island, where they are shipped for every foreign market, that is, open to the earthen-wares of England.

Mr. Wedgwood further observes, that this manufacture is attended with some advantageous circumstances, almost peculiar to itself; (*viz.*) that the value of the manufactured goods consist almost wholly in labour, that one ton of raw materials produces several tons of finished goods for shipping, the freight being then charged, not by the weight but by the bulk;—that scarce a vessel leaves any of our ports, without more or less of these cheap, bulky, and therefore valuable, articles to this maritime country; and, above all, that not less than five parts in six, of the whole produce of the potteries, are exported to foreign markets.

Notwithstanding all these important advantages, Mr. Wedgwood, in his evidence to the house of Commons, declares himself strongly impressed, with the idea that this manufacture was then but in its infancy, compared with what it might arrive at, if not interrupted in its growth.

Mr. Anderson, in his *History of the Great Commercial Interests of the British Empire*,* supposes that this last expression alludes to the introduction of the excise laws in the pottery, of which, it seems, there was some talk at that time; but adds, that it would have been too impolitic a step to check so growing

* Appendix to the second Ed. Vol. IV. p. 700.

growing a manufacture by excise laws, more especially when five-sixths of the duty collected must have been paid back again, upon exportation of their goods, and an opening thereby made for fraud, which, if we may judge from what has been practised in some of these articles, would have made the drawback amount to more than the original payment.

This manufacture is, perhaps, more than any other, affected by the war. The evidence given by Mr. Wedgwood, on the subject of the late orders in council, at the bar of the House of Commons, shews the ruinous effects which any restrictions on the American trade has upon this manufacture.

Mr. Wedgwood, the great improver of this valuable manufacture, was born near this place. His life furnishes but few materials to the biographer. We have already intimated, that to his indefatigable labours England is indebted for the establishment of a manufacture, that has opened a new scene of extensive commerce, before unknown to this or any other country. By the united efforts of himself, and his partner Mr. Bentley, the pottery art has been carried to a greater degree of perfection, both as to utility and ornament, than any works of the kind, either ancient or modern, has ever experienced. His many discoveries of new species of earthenwares and porcelain, his studied forms, and chaste style of decoration, and the correctness of judgment with which all his works were executed, under his own eye, and by artists, for the most part of his own forming, have turned the current in this branch of commerce; for, before his time, England imported the finer earthenwares; but, for nearly half a century past, she has exported them, to a very great annual amount; the whole of which is drawn from the earth and from the industry of the inhabitants; while the national taste has been improved, and its reputation raised in foreign countries. Neither was Mr. Wedgwood unknown in the walks of philosophy. His communications to the Royal Society, of which he was a worthy and active fellow, shew a mind enlightened by science, and contributed to procure him

him the esteem of scientific men at home, and throughout Europe. His invention of a thermometer, for measuring the higher degrees of heat employed in the various arts, is of the highest importance to their promotion ; and adds celebrity to his name.

Mr. Wedgwood was the younger son of a potter, but derived little or no property from his father, whose possessions consisted chiefly of a small entailed estate, which descended to the eldest son. In every sense, therefore, he was the maker of his own fortune ; and his country will be benefited in a proportion not to be calculated:

At an early period of his life, seeing the impossibility of extending considerably the manufacture he was engaged in, in the spot which gave him birth, without the advantages of inland navigation, he was the proposer of the grand Trunk canal, and the chief agent in obtaining the act of Parliament for making it, against the prejudices of the landed interest, which at that time stood very high, and but just before had, with great difficulty, been overcome in another quarter by all the powerful influence of a noble duke, whose canal was at that time but lately founded. Having acquired a large fortune, his purse was always open to the calls of charity, and to the support of every institution for the public good. To his relations, friends, and neighbours, he was endeared by his many private virtues ; and his country will long remember him, as the steady patron of every valuable interest of society.* He was a fellow of the Royal and Antiquarian societies. He died at his beautiful village of *Etruria*, aged sixty-four. The business of the pottery has since been carried on by his son, the present Josiah Wedgwood, Esq.†

VOL. XIII.

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Near

* Gent. Mag. for 1795.

† In *Magna Britannia*, Vol. V. p. 103, *Heracles* is said to be " the seat of Mr. John Wedgwood, who from a freeholder's estate, hath advanced to the quality of a gentleman ; but Mr. Erdeswicke says, that his son, seeking further

Near Newcastle, in Pyrehill hundred, is *Stonefield*. It is a large tract remarkable only as having been the place where the duke of Cumberland drew up his army in 1745, in daily expectation of coming to an engagement, with those rebels who had so incredibly penetrated into the very heart of the kingdom, undisciplined, ragged, and almost unarmed. Part of these wild and hot-brained Scotsmen were at Derby, and the rest in a very scattered state. Well for them, observes a writer in the *Topographer*, the loyalists had false intelligence of their route, and that the sword of chastisement was not unsheathed, or every soul might have perished. The general confusion that was spread over this part of the country, and the town of *Stone* in particular, at this alarming period, would seem almost incredible, to those who have not heard the particulars. Yet in fact, there was no great cause of alarm, except to weak and superstitious minds, which quake at scarce-crows; for a more ragged band of mountaineers, under the name of an enemy, were surely never seen, while this town was safely guarded by an army, the most disciplined and loyal that the kingdom could produce. So numerous were the army in proportion to the size of the town, that the inhabitants were almost dispossessed of their houses, while every apartment was crowded with soldiers, besides what were encamped in *Stone-field*.* The surprise expressed at the fears of the inhabitants of these parts, of the rebels, may be accounted for, from the natural dislike which these people have to a military life: for though the Staffordshire militia has long been distinguished as the finest militia corps in the kingdom, it is a fact, that the common people here have a more than ordinary aversion to the army. We know it to be true, that several of the poorer people of *Biddulph moor* have actually disabled themselves,

ther to advance himself, hath entered into a contentious course of living, which he feared would not prove commendable, if successful." *Quare* how is this? *Erdeswicke* wrote towards the close of the sixteenth century.

* *Topographer*, Vol. I. p. 68.

themselves, by striking off their own thumbs with an axe, sooner than run the risk of being ballotted into the militia! But these people of *Biddulph*, or as they call it *Biddle*, seem to be a totally different race of persons from the rest of their countrymen. Rough, unbroke, and but half-civilized, they yield to none of those restraints which curb the passions and appetites of others; and seem inclined to regard themselves as licensed to brutality and insolence. The influence, however, of Methodism, which is very zealously and benevolently exerted here, is gradually softening the native character of these people, and reducing them to something like rational beings. Their love of independence, however, still keeps alive their aversion to a military life.

Having approached so much to the east of the county, and as we too briefly passed it over in our account of Pyrehill Hundred,* we will give a more extended account of the early history of *Newcastle-under-Lyne*. This place, as has already been observed, is so called on account of an older castle which formerly stood at a little distance from it, at *Chesterton*, where were lately seen the ruinous and shattered walls of an old castle, which first belonged to *Ranulph*, earl of *Chester*, by the gift of king *John*, and after by the bounty of king *Henry III.* to the house of *Lancaster*, who rebuilt the castle, and were some successions in possession of the manor. But before this gift, *Gilbert* lord *Segrave* had a grant of king *Henry III.* of this manor to him and his heirs, to hold of the crown in fee farm; but the castle (which perhaps must prove it built before it came to the house of *Lancaster*) was under the government of *Henry*, lord *Audley*, and was continued to his son *James* lord *Audley*, under the title of constable of *Newcastle-under-Lyne*, in the 35th year of *Henry III.* But upon the rebellion of *Simon* *Montfort*, earl of *Leicester*, who undertook, with his confederate lords, to reform all things amiss in that king's government, the manor and castle of this town

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was

* Vide ante, p. 982.

was settled (with the forced consent of prince Edward) upon the earl of Leicester and his heirs. But fortune soon cancelled this deed; for he was slain the same year by prince Edward, at the battle of Evesham, and all his lands and estates being forfeited, this manor and castle were given by the king to his younger son Edmund, whom he made earl of Lancaster, and gave him all the vast possessions of Simon Montfort, and Nicholas lord Segrave, who had been a partaker with Montfort, in his rebellious actings; all which estates king Edward I. his brother, confirmed to him.

His earldom, and his great estate, he left to his eldest son Thomas, who having married Alice, the sole daughter and heir of Henry Lacy, earl of Lincoln, endowed in the church, at the time of his marriage with her, with this castle and borough, and all the other hamlets belonging to them. This same earl of Lancaster, by the instigation of Humphrey de Bohun, earl of Hereford, (who had married the daughter of the king, widow of the earl of Holland,) complaining of the arbitrary proceedings of the Despenchers, the king's favourites, drew together many of the nobility, and took arms, under a pretence of reforming what was amiss in the government; but chiefly to oblige the king to remove the Spencers from his councils and person,* which they commissioned certain bishops† to request he would do. This fighting reformer, like all other reformers,

* The occasion of this confederacy against the Spencers was this: William de Berewes a baron, proposing to sell part of his estate, called Gowerland, first agreed for it with the earl of Hereford above named, who offered to be the purchaser; but Hugh Spencer, Junior, obtained the king's licence, it being holden of the king *in capite*, and bought it out of the earl of Hereford's hands; who, being highly provoked at this affront, complained to the earl of Lancaster, and they two engaging a great number of barons into their interests, entered into a confederacy against the Spencers. Walsingham's *Historia Brevis*, 113.

† London, Salisbury, Ely, Hereford, and Chichester, who were to come to the confederate barons at St. Albans, to procure accommodation. Walsingham, *Hist. Brev.* p. 114.

reformers, who take the sword for their own aggrandizement, rather than for the good of the cause which they hypocritically support, was fearfully wroth against the monarch who refused to listen to his menacing message by the bishops; accordingly he marched to London;* and by the queen's and bishop's advice, the king was induced to promise to grant his request, and the favourites underwent a temporary banishment. But this, it seems, was done only to get a little time, in which an army might be raised to reduce him to submission. The king having easily raised an army, by assuring his subjects, that it was not against them that he marched, but merely to punish the insolence of an individual, made considerable progress, not only against the ostensible object of his attack, but also against many others of the confederate barons. The two Spencers were recalled, and the army put under their command; by which they had soon an opportunity of displaying not their courage so much as their revenge. Many of the barons forsook the standard of the earl of Lancaster; and he was soon so weakened, as to be compelled to withdraw into Yorkshire, where he was ultimately taken at Burrow-bridge. In his retreat, he took the most destructive methods to retard the march of the royal forces. He destroyed the country behind him; but was obliged at length to halt, after passing the *Trent* over *Burton-bridge*, in order to oppose the passage of the army, which pursued him across this county, with great rapidity. The battle that ruined him was fought near *Burrow-bridge*, on the sixteenth of March 1322.† Lancaster, being made prisoner, was attainted of treason; and, being sentenced to death, by a small number of peers, among whom were the two Spencers; and in the presence of the king, who assembled for the purpose in the hall of Pontefract castle,‡ he was be-

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headed

* Vid. Act. Pub. III. 478, et seq. Walsingham, Knighton.

† Knighton. De la Moor, p. 596.

‡ Rymer's Fed. Vol. III. p. 490, et seq.

headed on a hill near the town.* Being thus attainted, his estate was confiscated; but upon the deposal of the king, which took place soon afterwards, his attainder was reversed, and his estate restored to his brother and heir Henry, whose son Henry died possessed of this manor and castle, leaving his estate to his two daughters and heirs, Margaret and Blanch, which last proved his sole heir, her sister dying without issue. She was married to John of Gaunt, the celebrated duke of Lancaster. King Henry the fourth was her son, and the heir of her estates, of which this manor was a part, and came to her upon the death of her sister, to whom it fell in the partition.

It does not appear who built the castle from which the town takes its name; but whoever built it, it is now almost wholly lost; but very few fragments of it remaining. The town itself was formerly more populous, or more religious; having once had four churches,† but the barons' wars reduced them to one.

The Dissenters are here numerous, particularly the Wesleyan Methodists.

Dr. Plot mentions an instance of a stone having been found in a place called *Gallows Field*, near the town, being the place where malefactors were formerly hung, in which stone was an entire skull of a man, with the teeth, &c. in it. Of this fact, an alderman of Newcastle assured the doctor, that he had such an one long in his possession. This curious circumstance Plot endeavours to account for by saying, that it is probable, that the place, when it was used for executions, was nothing else but a sandy land, in which they used to bury the bodies of the persons executed, which, in process of time, turned into stone, about the head of a man, inclosed it in it.

* His sentence was to be hung, drawn, and quartered; but the king, out of respect to his birth, saved him the infamy of that punishment. *Bvesham Chron.*

† *Magna Brit. Vol. V. p. 63.*

is. This is not at all unlikely; it being well known that sands have been observed to petrify.

This same writer also, in mentioning several instances of men of extraordinary strength living in this county, adduces one in Godfrey Witrings, a butcher of this town, whom he saw take up a form six feet and ten inches long, and fifty-six pounds in weight, by one end in his teeth, and, holding both his hands behind him, lifted up the other end the whole height of the room, striking it thrice against the floor of the chamber over it; which the doctor says, by computation according to the centre of gravity, will prove that he lifted up, with his teeth, about one hundred and sixty-eight pounds weight.*

But what in this way, perhaps, confers greater notoriety, if not even greater honour on the town of Newcastle, than its men with strong necks and firmly set teeth, is the circumstance of its having given birth to Major-general Thomas Harrison, and to the celebrated John Goodwin, two of the infamous but extraordinary Cromwell's admirers; the one aid-
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* "R. W. saw a negro, in the year 1717, lift 224lbs. with his teeth, from the ground, and stood upright with them. They were four weights with rings." MS. note in the margin of p. 65, of Vol. V. Magna Brit. in Dr. Williams's library, Red Cross Street.

We knew a person some twenty years ago, at *Chowbent*, near Bolton in Lancashire, named *Osbaldston*, who could easily lift much greater weights than these in a similar manner: but these may, perhaps, yield in point of wonder, to the extraordinary strength, or rather hardness of bone, in the head of a person of the name of *Nightingale*, a dyer, (no way related to the writer of this,) at *Macclesfield*, we believe now living, who can readily break through a strong house door, or the slab of a stone or marble chimney-piece, by suddenly running against it headforemost. Of this man's extraordinary exploits in this way, the whole town of *Macclesfield* can bear ample testimony. He is rather a low man in stature; and otherwise does not appear to possess any extraordinary strength. Had Plot met with such a person, he would have assigned him a dignified niche, in his catalogue of natural wonders, with which his *History of Staffordshire* but too much abounds.

ing the usurper's regicide purposes with his sword, and the other with his pen.

These Major-generals, as the usurper called them, were, according to some, only eleven* in number; according to others† twelve; but Bates‡ says, the districts over which Cromwell appointed these Major-generals were fourteen. These officers were to keep a strict and vigilant eye over the jarring parties of the Presbyterians, the Independents, and cavaliers, as the loyalists were called; but particularly to watch the proceedings, and curb the factious spirit, of the rigid republicans, whom Cromwell had the greatest reason to dread and suspect. The Major-generals had almost absolute power; and they exercised it, as might naturally be expected from the nature of their characters, and the upstart innovations of their master, of whose turbulent spirit they largely partook. So tyrannical did they at length become, that, to prevent worse consequences to himself, Cromwell was compelled to reduce their authority within much narrower bounds. Before this reduction of their power, they could commit to prison all suspected persons; and they chose to suspect, whoever they disliked, (viz.) all moderate, loyal, good, men: they moreover levied money, sequestered those who refused to pay; had power to enlist horse and foot upon any occasion they might think proper to make, or any emergency they might themselves create. From their decisions no appeal lay, but to their regicide master himself.

Of this honourable fraternity was Harrison, the son of an attorney of this town. Not having any relish for his profession, he enlisted into the Parliament's army; and, being a person of great volubility of tongue, he soon insinuated himself into the favourable opinion of the army, and became Cromwell's confidant. The *Protector* knew how to make use of such a person

* Whitelock's Memorials of English Affairs, &c. p. 634.

† Clarendon's History of the Rebellion, Vol. III. p. 458.

‡ Vitæ Selectorum, &c.

a person as Harrison ; and he did not fail to avail himself of his canting dexterity, and perseverance, in routing the Presbyterians, and bringing his legitimate, though weak, monarch to the block. These services, for a season, procured Harrison a wicked elevation and popularity, among those who admired anarchy, rebellion, and military tyranny, highly seasoned by religious professions ; but he did not long enjoy his honours. He was at length executed as a traitor ; his head was set up at Westminster hall ; and his quarters upon the gates of the city of London. Thus disgracefully perished one of the many persons who, under the most showy pretences, would gladly have entailed to their posterity a form of government, which the people of this country never was, and we hope never will, be long disposed to support :—a government which opens the door to every species of oppression, by raising those to govern others who have neither prudence nor judgment to govern themselves :—who are clamorous for principles which wherever they have power, either in their own families, or over their other immediate dependents, they rarely reduce to practice. Monarchy, and that only, suits the genius, and sober, and rational character, of Englishmen.

The other person mentioned, as a native of this place, was doubtless honest in his mistaken principles ; and, as his personal history is not very generally known, we shall dwell upon it at a somewhat greater length. This person is the celebrated John Goodwin, a learned divine and most acute and zealous defender of Arminianism ; who, as Granger* remarks, “made more noise in the world, than any other person of his age, rank, and profession.” Notwithstanding this, no one has yet written his life ; Dr. Calamy’s account being too meagre and partial, to deserve the title. This will be our apology for the extended account we shall give of him. “It has been the misfortune,”

* Biographical Hist. of Eng.

misfortune," observes an ingenious and painful writer * of the present day, "of Mr. Goodwin to have his name transmitted, chiefly through the medium of his enemies, who have darkened it by reproach, and laboured to render it, odious to posterity."

Mr. Goodwin was born in the year 1593, as we are informed by an intelligent gentleman, who is descended from him in this neighbourhood.† Every account, hitherto printed, states the place of his birth to be unknown; and it is but just to add, that our own authority is tradition. He received his academical education at Queen's college Cambridge, where he soon became known by his learning and talents, and for being a smart disputant. Upon his leaving college he was admitted into orders, and became much admired for the erudition and elegance which distinguished his pulpit compositions.

He preached sometime in the country, and removed to London in the year 1633. The year following he was presented to the vicarage of St. Stephen's Coleman Street. At this time the lordly archbishop Laud took upon himself the government of the English church; and John Goodwin, among others,

was

* Mr. Wilson, in his "History and Antiquities of Dissenting Churches, Chapels, and Meeting-houses, in and about the city of London." Vol. II. p. 403. This work of Mr. Wilson's contains an invaluable mass of curious and interesting neglected biography and antiquity. Due allowance being made for a tincture of prejudice in favour of modern Calvinism, this book is of great value; and well worth a place in the library of every antiquary, and historian, as well as in those of dissenting ministers, by whom, we fear, it is ungratefully neglected. It is too liberal for the majority, and too orthodox for the fastidious tastes of heretics. Between the pride of the one, and the narrow mindedness of the other, a work that will do honour to the author for ages, is, we understand, likely to be left unfinished for want of encouragement! From this book many of the particulars relative to Mr. Goodwin are extracted.

† Yet Granger quotes a MS. in Lambeth Palace, which says: "Johannes Goodwin. Norfolk, became fellow of Queen's college in Cambridge, in 1617." Biog. Hist. Eng. III. p. 42. (note.)

was denounced for a breach of canons, by this tyrannical prelate in 1637.* To this Mr. Goodwin submitted.

In the year 1640, the king having allowed the convocation to continue its sittings, after the dissolution of Parliament, the clergy were busily occupied upon two subjects of considerable magnitude. One of these was to grant a subsidy for six years, to meet the exigency of the public affairs. This was proposed to be done, by a tax of four shillings in the pound upon the estates of the clergy. Another object of this prolonged convocation was the enactment of certain canons, or articles, amounting in number to seventeen. These were published on the 30th of June.† The first of these canons, "concerning the royal power," asserts the absolute authority of Kings, and the unlawfulness of taking arms, even in self-defence. Many of the other canons bore peculiarly hard on the non-conformists. The fourth, in particular, has been remarked to have a singularly intolerant character. It is there decreed, that no person shall import, print, or disperse, any books written by Socinians, on pain of excommunication, and of being further punished in the star-chamber. That "no minister shall preach any such doctrines in his sermons, nor students have any such books in his study, except he be a graduate in divinity, or have episcopal, or archidiaconal, ordination; and if any layman embrace their opinion, he shall be excommunicated, and not absolved without repentance or abjuration." How different the spirit of our own times, when, it is well-known, there are Unitarians living upon the revenues of the establishment, despising and undermining her tenets, yet fattening on her bounty! Though Mr. Goodwin does not appear to have had any peculiar bias to Socinianism, he, along with others of the
London

* Neal's History of the Puritans, Vol. II. p. 263.

† "Constitutions and canons ecclesiastical, treated upon by the archbishops of Canterbury and York, president of the convocation for their respective provinces, and agreed upon with the king's majesty's licence, in their respective synods, begun at London and York 1640."

London clergy, drew up a petition to the privy council; and so great was the outcry, against the proceedings of the bishops, that the king thought it prudent, to issue an order to Laud to soften his severity.*

Mr. Goodwin, refusing to baptize the children of the parish promiscuously, and also to administer the eucharist to his whole parish, was ejected from his living in 1645. He then set up a private meeting in Coleman Street parish, on the plan of the Independents. Being thus in a manner freed from the restraints of episcopacy, he attacked his adversaries with considerable warmth; and being a zealous defender of Arminianism, against the rigorous and dissocializing dogmas of Calvinism, was attacked with a characteristic and native fury; and he did not fail to defend himself with spirit. But when the factious turbulence of the times had succeeded in destroying for a season, the episcopal government, he hoped to have met with more favour from the Presbyterians. By indulging this expectation, honest John Goodwin by no means shewed the strength of his understanding. The ridiculous pride of Presbyterianism is more pernicious than the domineering sway of episcopacy. These religious demons, being unexpectedly mounted on the state horse, soon galloped to destruction. Goodwin was too honest and too unbending for these new demagogues, who, not content with depriving him of his living, continued to heap upon him plenty of abuse, and enacted laws that were designed to prohibit his preaching.

One Edwards, a furious Presbyterian, about this time published a book, intituled *Gangrena*, &c. which is still well known. In this work Mr. Goodwin is spoken of in the following style: "There is Master John Goodwin, a monstrous secretary, a compound of Socinianism, Arminianism, Libertinism, Antinomianism, Independency, Popery, yea, and of Scepticism, as holding some opinion proper to each of these."† In winding

* Neal's Hist. Puritans, II. 327—335

† *Gangrena*, Part III. p. 114.

winding up the climax of abuse which Edwards heaps upon Goodwin, he calls him an "Hermaphrodite," and, among other equally heavy charges, he accuses him of playing at bowls upon one of the Parliament's thanksgiving days.* This and such like offences, however, might possibly have been pardoned, had not Goodwin indulged himself in preaching against Calvinism. He replied to Edwards, and served him with much the same kind of pious abuse, so fashionable in those days, and too common in our own.

Amongst numerous errors which, about this time, the London clergy protested against, was the *Error of Toleration*. Of fifty-eight of these enlightened protesters, seventeen were of the famous Westminster Assembly, who, strange to relate, joined in the complaint of its being a very great grievance, "That men should have liberty to worship God in that way and manner as shall appear to them most agreeable to the word of God; and no man be punished, or discountenanced, by authority, for the same."† "Happily," says Mr. Wilson, "the lapse of time has effected, upon this subject, a complete revolution in the opinions of mankind."‡ Among the other errors denounced by these religionists, the fifth and sixth were selected from the writings of Goodwin: They are these: "5. That Christ died for the sins of all mankind; that the benefits of his death were intended for all; and that natural men may do such things as whereunto God has by way of promise annexed grace and acceptance."—"6. That a man hath a free-will and power in himself to repent, to believe, to obey the Gospel, and do every thing

* *Gangrena*, Part II. p. 63.

† Neal's *Puritans*, Vol. II. 263—265.

‡ *Hist. and Antiq. of Dis. Churches*, &c. II. 410. Yet a clergyman lately said, and that with the approval of numbers of his brethren, in hearing of the writer of this note, that the "Roman Catholic Faith is not a religion, but a mass of sin, which ought to be extirpated!" This worthy non-conformist is, of course, a great admirer of the Assembly Divines, and of their works!

thing that God requires to salvation." Mr. Goodwin feeling sore under this charge of heresy, gave a general challenge to dispute the points; and one William Jenkyn entered the lists. It were useless and disgusting to detail the squabbles and skirmishes to which this gave rise.*

But Mr. Goodwin held principles much more dangerous to the peace and stability of society than those of Arminianism; he was a zealous republicanism; and actually published a work to defend the decollation of Charles the First.* This mischievous book, though doubtless written under a firm conviction of the truth of its doctrines, raised Goodwin numerous enemies, more respectable for character, and formidable for talents, than his other foes. Yet he continued to defend what he had written.

Another controversy in which Mr. Goodwin soon after engaged was that relating to the *Tryers*, as certain commissioners were denominated, whom Cromwell appointed to approve of the public preachers. Of these Tryers Goodwin complained that "they made their own narrow Calvinian sentiments in divinity the doors of admission to all church preferments."† No great knowledge of the peculiar character of this creed is requisite to decide on the justice of this charge. Those who would shut out from the kingdom of heaven in the next world all but those of their own sect or faith might consistently enough be supposed to attempt the starvation of the same species of heretics in this. Goodwin's dispute with the *Tryers* lasted some time, and was very bitter, as usual.‡

Bishop

* Before the title to one of the books written against Goodwin is a plate containing Goodwin's portrait, with a windmill over his head, and a weather-cock upon it: the devil is represented blowing the sails; with other matters, emblematical, says Wood, (*Athenæ Oxoniensis*, Vol. II. p. 154,) of the "instability of the man."

† "The Obstructors of Justice; or, a Defence of the Sentence passed upon the late King by the High-Court of Justice; wherein the justice and equity of the said sentence is demonstratively asserted," &c. London, 1646.

‡ Neal, II. p. 449.

§ See Wood's *Athenæ Oxon.* Vol. II. p. 505.

Bishop Burnet * accuses Goodwin as a zealous *Fifth Monarchy Man*; but with what justice we know not; he was certainly a friend of Cromwell's, and that is almost sufficient to stamp him a friend to any enthusiastic vagary. The late Mr. Topkady,† in his detestation of Goodwin's Arminianism, was glad to have this flaw in his character; and Mr. Wilson ‡ observes, of this furious Calvinist, that "he has heaped together whatever he could find to vilify the character of Mr. Goodwin, and stated them with all the acrimony of a party bigot." The author of the *Gangraena*, however, has not enumerated this among the vices of Goodwin.

On the restoration of monarchy under Charles II. it was naturally expected that Goodwin would meet a severe chastisement; but, as Burnet § observes, both "John Goodwin and Milton did escape all censure, to the surprise of all people." All that was done was to call in his book intituled the "*Obstructors of Justice*," and Milton's celebrated "*Defensio populi Anglicani contra Salmasium*," and his *Answer to "The Portraiture of his Sacred Majesty in his Solitude and Sufferings,"* and have them burnt by the hands of the common hangman, which was accordingly done, on the 27th of August. The recommendation of the Commons that the king should direct his attorney-general to proceed against the authors of these books || was not regarded. It is thought by some that his Arminianism was at length of some use to him.¶

The restoration, however, did not restore Goodwin to his former living; and another presentation took place in 1661.** The terms

* Own Time, Vol. I. p. 67, 68.

† Historical Proof, &c. Introduction.

‡ Hist. Antiq. &c. II. 417.

§ Own Time, Vol. I. p. 163.

|| Kennet's Chronicle, p. 180, 189, 239.

¶ Burnet, Own Time, I. p. 163. Granger Biog. Hist. III. 42.

** Die 29 Maii, 1661. Theophilus Alford, A. M. admiss. ad Vic. S. Stephani, Coleman-street, Lond. vac. per Deprivat. Johannis Goodwin." New-court's Report, Vol. I. p. 537. Wilson, II. 419.

terms of the Act of Uniformity not according with the free spirit of Mr. Goodwin, he continued a nonconformist till his death in 1665, aged 72.* He wrote a great number of books, and seems to have had a ridiculous fondness for Greek titles. If our memory does not fail us, some of the late Mr. Wesley's Calvinian opponents used to call him Goodwin redivivus. Wesley, however, was a much more sober man: had every thing that was benevolent in Goodwin's religious creed, without any of his dangerous political bias.

Our departure from the hundred of Totmanslow north, to even beyond the southern extremity of it, may perhaps, if not perfectly, justify, at least apologize, for our proceeding a little farther still to give some account of *Shugborough*, not hitherto noticed by us.

Mr. Pennant has † described the vale of *Shugborough* with his usual accuracy and pleasantness. Leland‡ makes but little mention of this place; briefly remarking, that "some call it *Shokesborow Haywood*, because it standith by it." Camden does not notice the place at all. It is near *Great Heywood*, a village bestowed by Roger de Melend, otherwise Long Epee, "a worthless prelate, in the reign of Henry III."§ on his valet, Roger de Aston. He was son of Ralph Aston, and father of Sir John Aston, Knt. whose posterity enjoyed the seat till the latter end of the sixteenth century, or the beginning of the seventeenth, Sir Edward then being in possession of it.||

This family, as they received their estate from the church, so they have always shewn a particular respect to churchmen, and learned men. Sir Walter Aston, father of Sir Edward, was employed by James I. as ambassador into Spain,¶ and Michael Drayton

* Calamy's Contin. p. 78.

† Journey from Chester to London, p. 90, ed. 1811.

‡ Itin. VII. p. 38.

§ Pennant, p. 89.

|| Mag. Brit. V. 82.

¶ See Dodd's Church History, Vol. III. p. 49.

Drayton * mentions him as particularly friendly to his muse. † This estate passed from the Astons to the family of the Tixals; the heiress of Tixal being married to a descendant of the Astons occasioned it to remove to the new acquisition. ‡ “If my memory does not fail me,” says this writer, “the old seat was in the possession of the Whitbies.” It has since been re-united to the house of Tixal, by purchase. The barn belonging to the manor-house was of a most magnificent size, but has been greatly reduced. The horse-bridge over the Trent, adjoining to Haywood was formerly not less remarkable for extraordinary dimensions. Mr. Pennant says he remembered it to have consisted of two-and-forty arches. Magna Britannia, § says it “is longer than any bridge in England, having near forty arches; yet much shorter than the bridge over *Drave*, at Essec, which Dr. Brown tells us is at least five miles long, and made all of wood.” The tradition is, that it was built by the county, in compliment to the last Devereux, Earl of Essex, who resided much at *Chartley*; and, being a keen sportsman, was often deprived of his diversion for want of a bridge. Mr. Pennant, who states this, says he was not clear about the truth of this report and adds, “then there certainly had been a bridge here long before; so that, if there was any foundation for such a mark of respect, it could only have been rebuilt after falling to decay.” ||

VOL. XIII.

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The

* *Mag. Brit. ubi sup.* We will take this opportunity to mention and commend one of the most pleasing and ingenious poems in the English language: we allude to Michael Drayton's *Nymphidia*: a poem than which there is not one of all the numerous collections that have recently been made of our early English poets, more pleasing for beautiful imagery, simplicity of character, and ease of versification. Doubtless, the well-known *Butterfly's Ball* and *Grasshopper's Feast* of Mr. Roscoe owes its birth to Drayton's *Nymphidia*, which we should much wish to see re-published in a separate and neat form. It would not have detracted from the merit of Mr. Roscoe's beautiful piece, had he mentioned the name of that from which his idea is obviously borrowed.

† *Vide ante*, p. 908.

‡ Pennant, p. 89.

§ Vol. V. p. 89.

|| *Journey from Chester, &c.* p. 90.

The chief reason for the notice which we have just given of *Haywood*, and of this bridge, is that we might more conveniently introduce the beautiful *Vale of Shugborough*, which from the middle of the bridge is seen to great advantage. This vale, varied with almost every thing that nature and art could give to render it delicious, is watered by the *Trent* and *Sow*. The first, to use the words of the author last quoted, animated with milk-white cattle, emulating those of *Tinian*, the last with numerous swans. The boundary on one side is a cultivated slope; on the other, the lofty front of *Cannock-wood*, clothed with heath, or shaded with old oaks, scattered over its glowing bloom by the free hand of nature. It is more difficult, continues Mr. Pennant, to enumerate the works of art dispersed over this Elysium: they epitomize those of so many places. The old church of *Colwich*; the mansion of the ancient English baron at *Wolsley-Hall*; the great windowed mode of building in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, in the house of *Ingestre*; the modern seat in *Oak-edge*; and the lively improved front of *Shugborough*; are embellishments proper to our own country. Amidst these rise the genuine architecture of China, in all its extravagance; the dawning of the Grecian, in the mixed Gothic gateway at *Tixal*; and the chaste buildings of Athens, exemplified by Mr. Stuart, in the counterparts of the Chocagic monument of *Lysicrates*,* and the octagon tower of *Andronicus Cyrrhestes*.† From the same hand arose, by command of a grateful brother, the arch of *Adrian* of Athens, embellished with naval trophies, in honour of Lord Anson, a glory to the British fleet; who still survives in the gallant train of officers who remember and emulate; nay, who surpass, his actions. Pennant's friend, as he informs us, the late *Thomas Anson*, Esq. preferred the still paths of private life, and was every way qualified for its enjoyment: for with the most humane, and the

* *Antiquities of Athens*, Chap. IV. tab. 1, 3.

† *Ib.* Chap. III. tab. 1, 3.

the most sedate disposition, he possessed a mind most uncommonly cultivated. He was the example of true taste in this county; and, at the same time that he made his own place a paradise, made every neighbour partaker of its elegancies. He was happy in his life, and happy in his end. Mr. Pennant saw him about thirty hours before his death, listening calmly to the melody of the harp, preparing for the momentary transit from an earthly concert to an union with the angelic harmonies. The improvements which he began were carried on, with great judgment, by his nephew and successor George Anson, Esq. He was father to the present proprietor, who was created a peer of Great Britain February 17th, 1806, by the titles of Baron of Soberton, *in the county of Southampton*; and Viscount Anson, of *Shugborough and Orgrave* in the county of *Stafford*.*

The improvements at Shugborough have been farther carried on by his lordship, the house having been recently enlarged, and a handsome portico added to it. "The highly cultivated state of the demesne marks the laudable agricultural taste of the noble owner."

Of the great number of statues which embellish the place, an *Adonis* and *Thalia* are the most capital. There is also a very fine figure of Trajan, in the attitude of haranguing his army. The number of which Etruscan figures in the garden shew the great antiquity of the art of sculpture in Italy, long before the Romans became a people. The beautiful monument in the lower end of the garden does honour to the present age. It was the work of Mr. Schemecher, under the direction of Thomas Anson, Esq. just mentioned. The scene is laid in Arcadia. Two lovers, expressed in elegant pastoral figures, appear attentive to an ancient shepherd, who reads to them an inscription on a tomb:

"ET IN ARCADIA EGO!"

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* Sir Egerton Brydges's *Collins's Peerage*, VI. 430.

The moral of this seems to be, that there are no situations of life so delicious from which death will not at length snatch us. It was placed here by the amiable owner, as a memento of the certainty of that event. Perhaps, also, as a secret memorial of some loss of a tender nature in his early days: for he was wont often to hang over it in affectionate and firm meditation.* The Chinese house, a little farther on, is a true pattern of the architecture of that nation, taken in that country, by Sir Percy Brett; not, as Mr. Pennant observes, a mongrel invention of British carpenters.†

Opposite to the back-front of the house, on the banks of the *Sow*, stand the small remains of the ancient mansion, which, according to Leland,‡ originally belonged to "Suckborrow with a long beard," who, as some say, gave it to the mitre of Lichfield and Coventry.§ It must have been in very early times; for the manor of *Haywood*, just mentioned, (in which this is included,) belonged to that see in 1066, the twentieth of William the conqueror, and so continued till the reign of Edward VI. who gave it to lord Paget. The house, before that time, was an episcopal palace. The remains still standing serve to give the appearance of reality and ruin to some beautiful Grecian columns, and other fragments of ancient architecture; which were added to the front by Thomas Anson, Esq.||

But

* Pennant, 93.

† If noblemen and other gentlemen of large landed property would devote a portion of their possessions to the erection of such genuine specimens of foreign architecture as this Chinese building, they would render most important additions to the knowledge of those persons who have not opportunities of travelling, and who at present are compelled to receive their information on this and other interesting subjects from the imperfect and ignorant second-hand descriptions of careless, tasteless, and often absurd, travellers.

‡ *Ib.* ubi supra.

§ Magna Brit. V. 89.

|| Pennant, 94.

But certainly the greatest honour to the place, is the circumstance of its having been the birth-place of one of the most distinguished naval commanders and circumnavigators;—the late LORD ANSON, whose voyages have long made a conspicuous figure in every truly valuable collection.

This family have been seated in Staffordshire for several generations: first at *Dunston*,* in the parish of *Pentridge*, and then at *Skugborough*, the manor of which, being purchased in the reign of James I. by William Anson, Esq. he made it his principal residence.

This William Anson, in the reign of Elizabeth and in the beginning of James I. was eminent at the bar. Sir William Dugdale† states the circumstance of his having bought two manors in Warwickshire, of Sir Walter Aston, Knight of the Bath and Baronet, which he afterwards disposed of to William Cumberford, of Tamworth, Esq. and to Anne his wife.

William Anson, their son and heir, was born in 1638, and married Elizabeth, daughter of Thomas Stafford, of Botham Hall, in Derbyshire, Esq. By this lady he had, when he was 35 years of age, (April 6, 1663, when his descent was entered in the visitation of Staffordshire) three daughters, besides William his son and heir, who was born in 1656. This William, who was the third lord of the manor of *Skugborough*, had issue, besides GEORGE, of whom we are now about to give a brief memoir, Thomas, his eldest son, who succeeded to the family seat and estate; another son, who died young, and four daughters.‡ William Anson, Esq. died in August, 1720.

George Anson, afterwards Lord Anson,§ was born at this
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* Visitation of Staffordshire, chap. 36, p. 11, in Offic. Armer.

† Antiquities of Warwickshire, 1st ed. p. 824.

‡ Biographia Brit. Kippis's ed. I. p. 216.

§ He was the third son of William Anson, Esq. by Elizabeth, daughter and coheir of Robert Carrier, of Wirksworth, in Derbyshire, Esq. Collins, (not Sir Egerton Brydges corrected the blunder) twice calls him the second son.

place, on the 23d April, 1697 ; and, having an early passion for naval glory, in his nineteenth year, was made second lieutenant of His Majesty's ship, the Hampshire. The year following, 1717, he was in the Baltic, where also the Hampshire had been in the fleet commanded by Sir George Byng, and at this time he saw, on the Danish shore, the illustrious Czar, Peter of Russia, and the famous Catherine, afterwards Empress. Shortly afterwards he was appointed second lieutenant of the Montague, employed by Sir George Byng in the expedition to Sicily, and was present in the celebrated action near that island. In 1722 he was made master and commander of the Weasle sloop, and in the following year was made post captain, and appointed to the command of the Scarborough man of war. Shortly after this appointment, he was ordered to South Carolina ; and, during his station there, which was three years, he erected the town, called *Anson Bourgh*, and gave name to the county still called Anson County.

After being repeatedly in and out of employ, and having thrice been appointed to the station of South Carolina, where he had considerable property and to which place he was much attached, he, in consequence of an order in December, 1734, returned to England in June of that year, and was paid off at Woolwich. In all these services he gave great satisfaction to the Board of Admiralty ; and, after his return from South Carolina, remained at home between two and three years.

In December, 1737, he was put into the command of the Centurion, and in this ship he was ordered, in the February following, to the coast of Guinea. He returned in 1739, by the course of Barbadoes and South Carolina.

On the breaking out of the Spanish war, in this year, he was appointed to the command of a fleet of five ships, destined to annoy the enemy in that dangerous and then unfrequented sea, which lies beyond America, in the Great Pacific Ocean.* This voyage

* Anson's voyage, p. 3. 8vo. 14th Ed.

voyage laid the foundation of his future fortunes, and the history of it is well known. He did not depart before Sept. 1740, when, on the 18th of that month, he set sail from St. Helen's. He stopt at Madeira, then at the island of St. Catherine's, on the Brazil coast, and next at Port St. Julian, in Patagonia. He encountered prodigious difficulties in doubling Cape Horn; and, in this perilous passage, his fleet was separated, and part of it never rejoined him. At length he arrived at the Island of Juan Fernandes, and from thence proceeded to Peru, took the town of Paita, anchored a few days at Quibo, sailed to the coast of Mexico, and formed the design of intercepting the Acapulco ship. After stopping awhile at the harbour of Chequestan, he determined to cross the Pacific Ocean. At last his squadron was reduced to one single ship, the Centurion. He made some stay at Tinian, one of the Ladrone, or Madeira Islands, from which he went to Macao; and, sailing back from this place in quest of the Manilla Galleon, he had the happiness of meeting with it, and of taking it on the 30th of June, 1743. After this enterprise he returned to Canton, from whence he embarked for England, by the Cape of Good Hope. Having completed his voyage round the world, he came safe to an anchor at Spithead on the 15th or 16th of June, 1744. The whole of this undertaking he executed with singular honour and advantage to himself and the officers and people under him: from original errors and defects in the embarkation, and from causes in which he was in no wise concerned, the grand design of the expedition was not fully answered.*

The fame which Commodore Anson gained by this voyage, which lasted three years and nine months, will never fade from the minds of Englishmen, while the great humanity, prudence, and generosity, which he shewed towards the Spaniards, particularly to certain young and beautiful females taken in the Manilla Galleon, has endeared his name to the Spanish nation, whose natives speak of him to this day as the pattern of a perfect gentleman and a man of the greatest honour and humanity.

Z z z 4

A few

• Anson's Voyage, *passim*.

A few days after his return to his own country, he was made Rear-Admiral of the Blue and one of the Lords of the Admiralty. In April, 1745, he was appointed Rear Admiral of the White, and in July, 1746, Vice-Admiral of the Blue. He was also chosen member of Parliament for *Heydon*, in Yorkshire.*

The same winter, 1746-7, he commanded the channel squadron in a long and tempestuous cruise. The success of this expedition was frustrated by the accidental intelligence that was given by the master of a Dutch vessel, to the Duke d'Anville's fleet, of Admiral Anson's station and intention. The following summer, being then on board the *Prince George*, of 90 guns, in company with Admiral Warren and twelve ships more, he intercepted, off Cape Finisterre, a powerful fleet, bound from France to the East and West Indies, and by his valour and conduct again enriched himself and his officers, and thus strengthened the British navy with six men of war and four East India-men; not one of the enemy's vessels of war escaping.† The French admiral, M. W. George, of the *Invincible*, in allusion to two ships which had been taken, viz. *L'Invincible* and *La Gloire*, and pointing to these captured vessels, exclaimed, as he presented his sword to the conqueror, *Monsieur, vous avez vaincu L'Invincible, et La Gloire vous suit !*‡

On the 18th of June following, (1747) his Majesty, George II. in consideration of Mr. Anson's eminent services, advanced him to the Peerage, by the title of Lord Anson, *Baron of Soberton, in Hants*, and his lordship adopted the following very appropriate and encouraging motto: *Nil desperandum*. The same year he was appointed Vice-Admiral of the Red, and the year following he married Elizabeth, eldest daughter of Philip, Lord Hardwicke,

* *Gent. Mag.* vol. XIV. p. 339. From the *London Gazette*, also *Gent. Mag.* XV. p. 52.

† *London Gazette*, May 16, 1747. *Gent. Mag.* Vol. XVII. p. 228.

‡ *Collins' Peerage*, Vol. VI. p. 428. Collins was mistaken in attributing these words to M. Jouquiére, who commanded the *Serieux*. See Kippis's *Biographia Brit.* I. p. 219.

Hardwicke, at that time Lord High Chancellor of Great Britain, which lady died without issue on the 1st of June, 1760.*

He had frequently the honour of conveying the late King from England to Holland.† In 1749 he was made Vice Admiral of Great Britain, and on the 12th of June, 1751, he was appointed First Lord of the Admiralty, in the room of the Earl of Sandwich. In the years 1752 and 1755 he was one of the Lords Justices of the Kingdom, during his Majesty's absence.‡

On a change in the administration, in 1756, Lord Anson resigned his post as first Lord of the Admiralty; and some blame having been attached to him by party writers, (who, like some in our own times, were resolved never to speak well of an existing ministry,) relative to the relief of Minorca during his management of the Admiralty Board, the new ministers made a particular enquiry into the conduct of Lord Anson and others, in this affair; when, by several resolutions of the House of Commons, the late ministers were acquitted of any blame or neglect of duty.§ On the 24th of February, 1757, he was made an Admiral, and on the 2d of July he was again placed at the head of the Admiralty Board, in which post he remained during the remainder of his life. "All the rest of his conduct, as first Commissioner of the Admiralty, was crowned with success, under the most glorious administration which this country ever saw.||"

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* Gent. Mag. Vol. XVIII. p. 187, and Vol. XXX. p. 297. Lady Anson was a woman of extraordinary goodness of heart and powers of mind. She had a fine taste in drawing and painting, and was, moreover, a poet of no mean talents. On her death, the ingenious Mr. Mallet* addressed some good lines to Lord Hardwicke, her father.

† Gent. Mag. Vol. XXXII. p. 263.

‡ Gent. Mag. *ubi supra*.

§ Journals of the House of Commons, Vol. XXVII, p. 871-2.

|| Kippis's Biographia Brit. I. p. 221.

* Poems on several occasions, by David Mallet, Esq. (8vo. 1762.) p. 73—77.

In 1758, being then admiral of the white, and having hoisted his flag on board the *Royal George*, of 110 guns, he sailed from Spithead on the 1st of June, with a formidable fleet, Sir Edward Hawke serving under him ; and, by cruising continually before Brest, he protected the descents which were made that summer at St. Maloes and Cherburgh.* After this he was appointed admiral and commander in chief of his Majesty's fleets.

The last service he performed was conveying to England our present Queen CHARLOTTE, whom he landed after a rough and tedious passage, on the 7th September, 1761. In February of the following year, he accompanied the Queen's brother, Prince Charles of Mecklenburgh, to Portsmouth, to shew him the arsenal and the fleet that was then about to sail; under the command of Sir George Pocock, for the Havannah. In attending this prince his lordship caught a violent cold, which was accompanied by a gouty disorder, with which he had long been afflicted. This cold at length settled upon his lungs, and was the immediate occasion of his death, which took place rather suddenly, just after walking in his garden, at his seat, at Moor Park, in Hertfordshire. This was on the 6th of June, 1762. He was buried in the family vault, at *Colwich*, in this county.

Though Lord Anson had as few failings as most men of his age, with many more virtues than fall to the lot of the majority, he did not escape censure, nor avoid that poison of asps which ever lurks under the tongues of the base and the degenerate. Few men are in danger of the woe pronounced by the lips of an immaculate and divine teacher against those of whom all men speak well,—good men, or men of more than ordinary acquirements, are wholly out of the reach of this danger. There are always base men enough to invent, baser men to propagate, and weak and proud men to encourage and enjoy, slanders against their superiors. These remarks apply with some force in the case
of

* *Gent. Mag. ubi supra.*

of Lord Anson. He was accused of extravagant gaming; and because it was thought, or rather slanderously reported, that he had lost a considerable share of his wealth in these pursuits, there did not want wretches to ridicule and reproach him:—the loss or want of money being, in the estimation of some men, a sure mark of reprobation and scorn. Dr. Kippis has vindicated the character of Lord Anson, against the attacks of an Editor* who took very little pains to obtain authentic information concerning the persons treated of in his work. The respectable editor of the new edition of Collins should not have assisted in preserving the records of slander without offering some antidote to its poison.

It only remains now that we notice a fact relative to the publication of Lord Anson's "*Voyage round the World*," which the compiler of our biographies and peerages have not sufficiently attended to. It is well known that this work has ever had a most favourable reception with the public; four large impressions being sold off in a twelvemonth.† It has also been translated into most of the European languages, and still supports its reputation. This work was published under the name of Mr. William Walter, chaplain to the Centurion; though it has been generally said to have been written, under his lordship's inspection, and from materials which he furnished, by Mr. Benjamin Robins.‡ This was first openly asserted by Dr. Wilson, mentioned in the note below. It was then reported and apparently confirmed

* British Plutarch, Ed. 1776, Vol. VI. p. 121.

† Collins's Peerage, VI. p. 429.

‡ Mr. Robins was an ingenious and very eminent mathematician, and being a native of BATH, naturally claimed an earlier and more conspicuous notice in this work. He was born in 1707, and died in 1751. He was engineer-general to the East India Company; and wrote several mathematical tracts, an edition of which was published by Dr. James Wilson, accompanied with a short account of the author. Mr Robins is particularly known for his "*New Principles of Gunnery*," and for having the reputation of being the real author of Mr. Walter's "*History of Lord Anson's Voyage*."

confirmed in the *Monthly Review*,* a publication of sufficient celebrity and respectability to give authenticity to any statement its conductors might feel reason to make. From these authorities the story has been copied into almost every subsequent account of Mr. Robins, or of this celebrated voyager. The editor of the last edition of the *Biographia Britannica* followed the same opinion; but in the further list of corrigenda et addenda to the first volume of that great undertaking, a letter is inserted from Mrs. Walter, relict of the respectable clergyman whose name appears in the title-page of the "Voyage" in question. This letter was written in 1789, and was addressed to Mr. John Walter, bookseller, of Charing Cross, London, and it decidedly contradicts the reports respecting Mr. Robins being the compiler of this work; asserting, in the most unequivocal manner, that Mr. Robins left England some months before the publication of the book, having been sent to Bergen-op-zoom. That Mr. Walter, during his almost daily visits to this lady, previous to their marriage, frequently said, how closely he had been engaged in writing, for some hours, to prepare for his constant attendance upon Lord Anson at six every morning for his approbation, as his lordship overlooked every sheet that was written. At some of those meetings, says Mrs. Walter, Mr. Robins assisted, as he was consulted on the disposition of the drawings. She then adds that she has frequently seen Mr. Walter correct the proof sheets for the printer.

Mrs. Walter accounts for the silence of Mr. Walter on this matter, from the circumstance of his having laboured under very severe and painful illnesses, during four years before his death; which took place in 1785; and, that during this time, "he never heard any thing but newspaper squibs, which he looked upon with contempt." This is the only thing which throws the least obscurity in the way of vindication against what Mrs. Walter thought "an imputation of duplicity" in her late husband.

* *Monthly Review*, Vol. XXX. p. 335, 336.

band. Dr. Wilson's edition of Robins's Mathematical Tracts, &c. was published in 1761; and, in the same year, the Monthly Review repeated the story, told by Dr. Wilson in the Memoir prefixed to those tracts, respecting the compilation of the History of Lord Anson's voyage to the South Seas. Now it is fair to ask whether during the whole twenty years, prior to Mr. Walter's severe illness, he never saw any thing but "newspaper squibs," which asserted that Mr. Robins was really the author of the very popular and highly valuable work to which his own name appeared? From the first publication of that work in 1748, at least from the year 1761, every body spoke of Mr. Robins as the compiler or author of the History bearing Mr. Walter's name; and, did that gentleman never himself hear of it? The account concerning which Mrs. Walter complains, in the Biographia Britannica, and which appears to have been the first respectable publication which the family had seen which stated the fact, was published in 1778; seven years before Mr. Walter's death, and three before his illness. We must, therefore, suppose that twenty years elapsed, during which, at different periods, and while Mr. Walter was alive and well, a report was circulated charging him with having put his name to a work of which he was not the author; and yet he never heard any thing more of it than what contemptible newspaper squibs asserted! We must also suppose that from 1778 to 1789, the date of Mrs. Walter's letter, this stigma, for so that lady deemed it, had been cast upon the character of Mr. Walter, and that "in a work that will be handed down to posterity;" and yet no body interested in the truth seems to have known a syllable of the matter!

Dr. Kippis remarks, after having inserted Mrs. Walter's letter, that they, the editors, would make no other comment upon it, than to observe, that "*it is highly worthy of attention.*" To this is added that "if it should give full satisfaction to their readers, so as to convince them, that Mr. Walter was the writer of the voyage in its present form, they would rejoice in
having

having had an opportunity of doing justice to an injured character." As a piece of literary history, by no means irrelevant to the plan of our own work, we have ventured to introduce these circumstances; which we do not recollect to have seen discussed in any work yet published.

Before we return to the hundred of *Totmanslow North*, to complete our delineations of this interesting county, we will give more enlarged descriptions of one or two places which we have too minutely noticed, in these more southern districts. And first of the parish of *Rushall** in the *Offlow* hundred.

A MS. in the hands of a gentleman of this county, speaks of the former possessors of this estate in the following manner: "*Walshall* water, passing on, runneth through *Rushall*. XXo. of the Conqueror Rob. held it of William, son of Ansrulf. About H. I. tyme Nigellus was lord thereof. Nigellus had issue Osbert, who had issu Richard, who had issu Richard, who had issue Alice, married to Sir Hugh Boweles, Kt. who had issue by her William,† of whom, from Mr. Walker's MS. *VII William Boweles dñs de Russale*. William Boweles sone and heyr to William Boweles of Rushele, of pleyu age at the decees of his fadir entride into the manor of Rushale, and tooke to wyf Anneys, ye eldeste doghtir of Henry Hambury, squier, sister to Sire Henry Hambury, Knyght, the whiche dwellide at *Knyghtesfeldes* in a faire maner in *Hambury* parishe besyde *Tuttebury*. The whyche William Boweles was a thryfty squyer and a wel rewled and a good howsholdere. And he had issu by Anneys his wyf William Boweles. The wyche William at the age of man his fadir married to Elizabet, the doghtir of Sire John Gyfforde, Knyght; Lord of *Chylynton*, as in a fyn rerid in the Kyngis court aº. VIIº.

* *Vide Ante*, p. 834.

† Erdiswicke says this "William had issue William, who had issue a third William, who had issue Katherine, first married to John Hewet, by whom she had issue Elizabeth, married to Thomas Herstell, and Margaret, married to William Storkley. Katharine was married, afterwards to Robert Groberd who had issue by her William Groberd that called himself *Rushall*," Erds. Staff.

a°. VII°. E. III. makith mention. Where William Boweles, the fadir took an estate of the maner of Rushale to of his lyfe, the remaynder to William the sone and Elizabet his wyf, and to the issu of there two bodies begoton. And inn a fewe yeeris astir the fyn was rerid the said William the fadir and Anneys his wyf deyde, and so the remaynder of the seyde manor of Rushale fell to William Boweles the sone and Elizabet his wyf. *VIII. William Boweles dns de Rushale.* William Boweles sone and heyr to William Boweles last rehersed was of pleyn age at the decees of his fadir, and dwellide at the manor of Russhale, and Elizabet his wyf with him bote fewe yeeris. They had issu Katryne, and thence from the grete pestilence in *anno* XX°. of the last kynge E. in the whyche the sayd William Boweles deyde, and Elizabet his wyf outlywede, and Katerine his doghtir and heyr, was married in hire fadires dayes to John Hewit, squyer, dwellinge at Walshale. And the sayd Elizabet tooke to husbande, William Colesone, and the seyde Elizabet and William Colesone, here husbande, dwelden in the manor of Russhale, that was here ioyntore manye yeeris. And the seyde John Hewet and Kateryne, hadde issu two doghtiris Elizabet and Margarete. Elizabet mariede to Thomas Hextalle, squyer, and Margarete mariede to William Stokkeley, Squyer, and thene the sayd John Hewit was slayn, and thene the seyde Kateryne was weddid to Robert Grobbere, Squyre, and hadde issu by the seyde Kateryne, William Grobbere, and thene deyde the seyde Kateryne, eer hire sone William were twelve months old, and thene in the laste yeeris of kynge Edward the thirddे deyde the seyde Elizabet astir the decees of hire doghtir, Kateryne, and thene descendede the manor of Russhale to William Grobbere, sone and heyr to Kateryne withinne age. And thene was the manor of Russhale seysid in the handis of Henry Buyssbury, as lord of *Buyssbury* in as muche as the manor of Russhale is holden of the manor of Buyssbury, by the fourthe part of a knyghtis fee. And in as much as Ro-

bert Grobber, fadir to the seyde William Grobbere was in playn lyfe at the decees of Elizabet, grandmodir to the seyde William, the marriage and the warde of the body of the seyde William Longide by lawe to his own fadir Robert Grobbere, and to no man ellis.

IX. William Grobbere dñs de Russhale. William Grobbere, sone and heyre to Robert Grobbere and Ketryne his wyf, and also cosyne and enherjter of the maner of Russhale after his grandmodir Elizabet, that deyde seysid as of here joynture, of the seyde maner of Russhale, whose mariage William Colesone boghte of Robert Grobbere, the fadir to the seyde William. And also the seyde William Colesone boghte the warde of the maner of Russhale of Henry of Bussebury duryng the nonnage of the seyde William Grobbere. And so the seyde William Colesone hadde bothe the warde of the maner of Russhale, and also the mariage of the seyde William Grobbere, the whyche bothe warde and mariage the seyde William Colesone solde to William Walshale, squyer, that was Nevewe to the seyde William Colesone, and the seyde William Walshale was a thryftie squyre and on of the marshallis of Kyng Richard's halle of grete power by the Kyngis autoritee. And the seyde William Walshale mariede the seyde William Grobbere to hys doghtir Kateryne. And bycause the seyde William Grobbere was lord of Russhale, the seyde William Walshale uside to calle him William of Russhale, and so al the cuntre uside to calle him, and callide him William of Russhale, al his lyfe."

What followed of this MS. has been lost. We have seen a MS. evidently of nearly the same age, partly copied from this, and partly original, the production of Robert Standish of Stone. This MS. says that, "William Grobbeior, mostlei callid William *Dom : Rush :* bilt hym a verie prattie littil house of woode, and hadde inn it severall picturs of famous kynges, and quenes, and of hystorically subiects from various partes of the worlde. But a dreadful fiere burnt bothe the littil woude chamber, bilded for theyre receptioun and care, and al the pic-
tures

tures bot foure, whyche were presarvede, altho moche damaged bi the water. Theyse were thene gyuen to Syr John Harpure; the lord of Rushal, beyinge greatlie grieved for the losse of thoose thynges, boothe natrall and made by the cunnynge of wyse wrenne, whyche hee hadde wythe greate paynes and coste ammassed togeder for hys owne and manie friendes pleasure; who cam frō greate distaunces inn this countrie, to feaste theyre eyen uppon. After thys losse lord Grobbiere de Rushale resolved to make no moore collectionns of so greate coste, and thys mooved hym to gyve the foure saued pictures, the best then all hee hadde, to Syr John Harpure hys friend and afterwarde hys son-in-lawe, beyng married to hys doughtir Elianor, who hadde welnye beene burnte to deathe in the littil picture house. Theyse thynges I haue inn parte from a wrytynge lent to mee, and the oder from a paper wrytten in y^e lyfe tyme of my gode relatycon Roger Standyahe of the towne of Stone, in the reigne of kynge Rycharde, on whose soule mercie; whyche short bot sincere masse I saye in trouthe, tho no mann wille paie mee for the same. ATT RUSALE.

The names and coppies of the foure pictures are in my box X. donne wythe my owne hande, bye oders longing to my decesed cousyne."*

Erdeswicke, speaking of this *William of Rushall*, says he "had issue Elianor, married to Sir John Harpur, Knt. who had issue William Harpur, who had issue another Sir John Harpur, Knight, who had issue Robert Harpur, Dorothy, and Elizabeth. Robert had issue, Dorothy, married to Sir Anthony Knighton, and after to Sir Richard Egerton, Knt. but had no issue; so that the lands came to her two aunts. Dorothy was married to Thomas Hodd, of Bridgnorth, who had issue by her Frances, married to Thomas Farmer. Frances also died without issue.

VOL. XIII.

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Elizabeth

* This MS. is sufficiently curious to be preserved in this work; and this, probably, is the first time it has been printed.

Elizabeth was married to William Leigh,* son of Sir Roger Leghe of *Wellington*, which Sir Roger was son of Richard, a second son of John Leghe of the *Ridge* in Cheshire. William Leghe had issue Henry, who had issue Edward, who possesseth Rushall, and hath issue Henry Leghe, both living Anno 1597."†

This village is thought to have been a part of the Forraigne of Walsall, from the circumstance of Moseley's dole-penny being distributed here, upon every Twelfth-day, as at that place, where it first originated.‡

The following particulars and monumental inscriptions are from a MS. by Mr. Walker of *Aldridge*, and may be seen in the Topographer,§ before quoted: "William Ruffus (or Rous) of Walsall, for the cause of God and furtherance of piety, by his deed (*sans date*) gave to the Abbey of *Hales Owen*, the church of Walsall with the chapters and appurtenances, to which abbey this church of Rushall passed, as being then a chapel appertaining to Walsall. The time of making the above deed will appear in the witnesses thereto (*viz.*) *Hijo Testibus Domino Willielmo Coventrie Episcopo*: &c. This witness being William de Cornehull, consecrated January 25, 1215, died June 19, 1223.||

Not long after (*viz.*) in the year 1248, De Weseham, then bishop of Coventry and Lichfield, ordained a vicar for this place (*Inter Alia*) with an annual stipend of thirty marks all offerings or oblations and robes, &c. M. A. T. 2. p. 656.

John Harpur, Esq. about the year 1444, 32 Henry VII. endowed this vicarage, and seems also, by the following lines, wrote

* From his younger brother Thomas descended the lords Leigh of Stoneley, those of Addlestrop, &c. Topographer, Vol. II. p. 199.

† Erdeswicke's Staffordshire, Ex Collect. Holmian Mus. Brit. Bibl. Harl. 4990. See also Mag. Brit. V. p. 23.

‡ Vide ante, p. 836.

§ Vol. II. p. 201.

|| Godwin's Catalogue of Bishops, &c. de Præ. p. 70.

wrote on vellum in the old church book of Rushall, not only to have endowed it then, but also furnished and rebuilt it:

This present book legibile in scripture
 Here in this place thus tatched with a cheyn
 Purposed of entant for to endure,
 And here perpetuelli styлле to remeyne ;
 Fro eyre to eyre wherefore appone peyn
 Of Cryst is curs of Fadres and of Moderes
 Non of hem hens atempt it to dereynn
 Whille ani leef may goodlei hange with oder ;
 But for as moche that noo thyng may endure
 That urthely ys alwey the trows certayn
 Whensoever thys book hereafter in Scripture ,
 Eyder in keveryng begynneth cause ayeyn
 All tho therto that diligence doth or peyn
 Hit to reforme be they on or oder
 Have they the pardon that Criste gave Magdaleyn
 With daili blessing of fader and moder
 Gret reason wolde that ev'y creature
 Moved of corage on hit to rede or seyn
 Shuld hym remembre in prayer that so sure
 Both prest and place and Bokes just ordeyn,
 At his gret cost John Harpur noght to hyn ;
 Wherfor in speciall his eires with all oder
 As hyly bondon to pray the sovereyn
 Lord of all Lordes present hym to his moder.

In the Kalendar of which book in 20th of January, is the following entry :

*Rushale ecclia sacra huc fuit et locus xpi: Anno Dni m c lxxviii & quater et
 xxi pleno.*

Thomas Stheston of *Pelsal*, by his deed in writing dated the 6th of August, 16 Henry VII. gave a moiety, or half part of one field called *Lydeat Field* in Rushall, unto the use and behoof of the maintenance mending and repairing of the church of Saint Michael in Rushall, and the ornaments thereof for ever.

(Obits) 15th January. Obitus Willi. Ruysshale, Armigeri Anno Dom. M^cCCCCXXIX.

14th February. Obitus Willi Balle nup' Vicarii Eccleie Scti Michaelis de Russhale Anno Dom. M^cCCCLVIII.

5th March. For the solle of Margaret Harpur and John Wyllya.

7th May. Obitus Elizabeth * que fuit Ux' Willi Ruysshale Armigeri Anno Dom. M^cCCCCXXX^o.

10th July. Obitus Roberti Colman Anno Dom. M^cCCCCXLVII^o qui Dedit vis, & viiid. Redditus Annual — — — Curati Eccleie St.-Michis de Russhale. Ibid. in perpetuum.

29th Sept. Obitus Johis Harpur et Elenor' Uxor' Ejus.

Hac III die Julii et anno Dom. m^olmo CCCCmo. LXmo. IIIto. obiit Johes Harpur Armig: ac dom: de Ruysshale Int.' horam septimam et octavam post nonam, cujus animæ propicietur Deus, Amen.

Buried in the Grey Friars, Lichfield.

Burials. Lewis, second son of Sir Edward Leigh, Knt. Dom. de Rushall, — — — — 24th April, 1624.

Richard, third son of ditto — — — 13th August, 1630.

The only remaining monument of this family in this church is the following, being upon a flat stone in the south chancel, to them belonging :

“ Here lieth the bodys of Samuel Leigh, Esq. grandson of Sir Edward Leigh, Knight; and son of Henry Leigh, of Rushall, in the county of Stafford, Esq. by Dame Ruth Scudimour, widdow and relict of Sir Philip Scudimour, Knt. and daughter of Sir Edmund Hampden, of Buckinghamshire.

And Ann his wife, eldest daughter of Thomas Cornwallis, of Lincoln, Esq. and grand-daughter of Sir Charles Cornwallis, of Broom-Hall, in the county of Suffolk, Knt. who was Treasurer to Prince Henry, and Embassadour in Spain for King James the First. He departed Anno 1651; and she in 1684.

In

* She was daughter of John Rowleston of Tutbury. Topog. II. 203.

In the north chapel, built by the late Edward Leigh, Esq.

Hic Inhumatur Gulielmus Strong. Natus est, Anno 1623,
Denegatus 1698.

In the middle isle :

Here lyeth the body of Thomas Worsey, who died March 21,
1739, aged 27."

~~the same is the same~~

* In addition to what we have before * said respecting *Wednesbury*, we have the following short account chiefly from the Topographer, with church notes from Mr. Walker's MS. before quoted. The renowned Queen Adelfleda, who governed the kingdom of Mercia with so great conduct, fortified this place against the Danes who infested her nation. At the conquest it was the ancient demesne of the crown, but in the reign of Henry II. was given to the family of Heronville, in exchange for the town of *Cobasfield*, in Oxfordshire. It continued in this family divers successions, till Henry Heronville having no issue male, left it, with his other estates, to Joan his daughter and heir, who married Sir Henry Beaumont, Knt. uncle and heir to William Viscount Beaumont. In which family it remained many generations, till John Beaumont, left this lordship, among other estates, to his daughters and coheirs, one of whom, Dorothy, married Humphrey Comberford, in whose posterity this manor was invested by the said marriage, and they continued lords of it sometime.†

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This

* P. 841.

† " This ancient family, no doubt, took their name from *Comberford*, a manor standing on the east side of the Tame, near to *Tamworth*, where they long had their principal seat. Alanus de Comberford, was lord of Comberford in Henry the First's time; William Comberford was a man of great note in the reign of Henry VI. and they long continued a family of repute in this place. But Dr. Plot seems to deal in the marvelons about their signal warnings of death, (viz.) three knocks being always heard at Comberford-Hall before the decease of any of that family, though the party dying be never at so great a distance.

" The Comberfords, we believe, had likewise some time their residence at

This place is also rendered famous for the descent of the first lord Paget; whose unmerited, though temporary, degradation will ever remain a stigma and a reproach on the memory of the vicious and ambitious Duke of Northumberland.*

In the church of *Wednesbury* are some very ancient monumental inscriptions: on a flat stone on the chancel floor:

Of your Charite praye for the soules of Richard *****
his Wylfe the which Richard departed the IX day of *** in the Year
of our Lord God MCCCCXCI being LXVIII years of age of happy
soules Jesus have Mercy. Amen.

On another is a similar one, for John Comberfort, Gentleman, and Ann his wife. This is dated Ap. 22, 1452. There is another with the names obliterated, dated Oct. 4th, 1417; and on another, close under the chancel step, in Latin, for *Gaulterus Hercourtii*. This is without date. These are all in old English, black letter,

* * * * *

The curious in the history of ancient manors will not blame us for enlarging our account of *Clifton-Campville*.† According to Erdeswicke, this manor was held, before the Conquest, by Earl Algar; and, in the 20th year of the Conqueror, by the King. In the 9th of Edward II.‡ Sir William Camvile was lord thereof; and before this it had been the seat of the Camviles

at *Tamworth*, in the curious old mansion still remaining there called the *Moat-House*, said to have been built by one of them, in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, and their arms we lately saw in the large open room there." The Topographer, Vol. II. p. 356.

* Strype's Memor. Vol. II. p. 155. Hayward's Life of Edward VI. p. 311. Godwin's Annals, p. 272, and, particularly, Ashmole's Order of the Garter, p. 285, *et seq.* This is a very interesting portion of English History.

† Vide ante, p. 821.

‡ The *Nomina Villarum Rec.* is of this date.

viles for many descents.* Neither Erdeswicke, Burton,† nor Dugdale,‡ say how this manor of *Clifton* first came to the Campville family; but it appears to have been possessed by Geoffrey, eldest son of William Campville, by Alberda, daughter and heir of Geoffrey Marmion. Dugdale says the husband of Alberda was a younger son of Richard de Campville, founder of *Comb-Abbey*, just mentioned in the note. This Geoffrey married Maud, grand-daughter and heir of Henry de Tracy, by whom he became seized of *Barnstaple*,§ and other large estates in *Devonshire*. He had summons to Parliament from 23 to 24 of Edward I. and died 2 Edward II. seized (*inter alia*) of the lordship of Clifton-Campville, which he held by the service of three knights' fees; leaving William, his son and heir, forty years of age. This William had also summons to Parliament in 2 and 4 of Edward II.|| and was lord of this manor 9 Edward II.

This estate then passed to Sir William's heir.¶ Erdeswicke, Burton, and Dugdale, vary in regard to the heir or heirs of this William. Erdeswicke says he had but one daughter, Maud, married, first, to Richard Vernon, and after to Sir Richard Stafford, Knt. second son of Edmund, Baron of Stafford. Burton says he had two daughters, Maud and Mary; one married to Sir Richard Stafford of *Pipe*, and the other to Sir Richard Vernon of *Haddon*, in Derbyshire. Dugdale speaks only of one daughter, whom he names Isabell, who, he says, was wedded to

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Sir

* Richard de Camville founded *Combe Abbey*, in Warwickshire. His grand-daughter, Isabel, married Robert de Harcourt, who, in the right of his wife, was seated at *Stanton*, in Oxfordshire, since that time called *Stanton-Harcourt*. Collins, IV. 432, new ed.

† See Hist. Leicestershire, in *Newton-Burdett*.

‡ Dugdale's Warwickshire, ed. of 1730, p. 845.

§ See Topogr. I. p. 263.

|| Dugdale's Baronage, Vol. I. 636.

¶ We give this on the authority of "a Correspondent," in the Topogr. II. p. 2. This was, probably, Mr. Wolferstan. The communication is signed S. P. W.

Sir Richard Stafford. And in a note; by le Neve, * cites, "Tim. lev. XV. Mich. XXV. E. III." "Sir Richard Stafford, and Isabell his wife, cousins and heirs of William de Campville, and Albreda his wife, released to the Abbot of Combe, &c." These are the words of Dugdale. But in an interleaved copy of Erdiswicke, once in the possession of the late Dr. Vernon, rector of Bloomsbury, † there are the following notes, facing pp. 165, 166: "William de Camvile of Clifton Baron had five daughters and heirs: viz. Maud, eldest daughter, wife of Sir William Vernon, of Haddon Co. Derby. 2. Isabella, wife of Sir Richard Stafford of Pipe Co. Staff. remarried to Gilbert de Birmingham. 3. Eleanor. 4. Nichola uxor Joho St. Clere. 5. Catherine uxor Robert Griesley. ‡

"Vernon married Camvile's daughter, and had Clifton with her. § Flower, in his Visitation of Staffordshire, || recites a deed inter Matild. de Vernon, Dom. Richard de Stafford, et Isabelam uxorem ejus ex altra parte, et Dom. John. de Griesly et Aliam uxorem altra parte.—Dat. 32 E. III."

This deed, according to the same MS. note, is sealed Matil. de Vernon, and Richard de Vernon. The seal also of Isabella de Stafford is annexed to the deed; so that it bears the arms of Stafford, Camvile, and Vernon.

Admitting this deed to be accurately quoted by Dr. Vernon; and that the *Escheat. Wallia*, referred to mean the Inquisition after the death of William Camvile, the number of his daughters is ascertained; and shews the doubtful dependance that should be placed on the unsupported assertions of even Dugdale himself. As to Burton few will rely upon any of his conjectures; and Erdeswicke has never yet been correctly given to the public;

* Dugdale's Warwickshire, p. 223.

† "Now in the library of Mr. Astle." Topogr. II. p. 2.

‡ Esch. Wallia, anno 12, Ed. III.

§ Vide a Deed of the Duke of Rutland, N. 6, sans date.

|| Anno 1583, p. 24.

public;* and even the MS. copies vary in numerous particulars. However, none of these authorities contradict Erdeswicke and Dugdale as to Sir Richard Stafford's wife, (whatever her name might be,) becoming in fact heir of Clifton. But there is a very strong appearance as if her title were really derived through a Vernon, and she herself not sister, but daughter, to Matilda, who was party with her and her husband to the deed quoted in Dr. Vernon's Erdeswicke. For, not to lay stress on what is stated from this deed, how came the arms of Vernon upon the seal of Isabella de Stafford, if she bore no other relation to that family than being merely sister to a Vernon's wife? Notwithstanding the extreme confusion and want of method frequently seen in old quarterings, the circumstance seems strikingly particular. Sir Richard Stafford is usually denominated of *Pipe*, which, according to Erdeswicke, came to him, together with Clifton, from William Camvile, who had married the daughter and heir of Sir Thomas Pype, lord of Pype, 24th of Edward I. Agreeably to this account, most of the monumental and other achievements of Camvile's posterity quarter the arms of Pype. The Staffords of Pipe bore three martlets, &c. (on the ancient coat of Stafford) for difference.

On the death of Sir Richard's sons and grandson, his daughter, called Katherine by Erdeswicke, "being heir of Clifton and Pype," married Sir John Arderne, of *Elford*, in this county, Knt.; and they, according to the same author, had issue Maud,
married

* *Quere.* Would not a new edition with additions of this very scarce, and in many respects curious, Survey of Staffordshire be acceptable? Especially if collated with the various MS. copies that are to be met with; his blunders (and they are not few) rectified; and the whole printed in a style of correctness worthy so old and scarce a book? The only printed copy it has been in our power to consult is the edition of 1732, charged in Lackington's cheap catalogue at 2l. 2s. 0d.! It is extremely inaccurate and intrinsically not worth one shilling!

married to Sir Thomas Stanley, second son of Sir John Stanley, (who died 1413, knight of the garter and lord lieutenant of Ireland, and was, according to the printed pedigrees, a younger son of the Stanleys of *Hooton*, in the county of Chester,) by Isabella, heiress of Lathom. But a monumental pedigree in *Elford* church, of William Brooke, who possessed part of the Arderne estates, and died 1641, exhibits another Sir John Arderne, son to the former, and gives him a wife Matildis, whose arms are Ar, a cross patonce Gu. voided of the field, being those of Pilkington. This pedigree makes Matilda the wife of Stanley, daughter to Sir John Arderne, Jun.* Be this as it may, Sir Thomas Stanley had by Matilda Arderne, Sir John, whose monument remains at *Elford* †

Sir John Stanley's history, in some points, is by no means clear. The college of arms books are confused and contradictory ;

* The present Sir John-Thomas Stanley, of *Alderley*, near *Macclesfield*, in *Cheshire*, who married Maria Josepha, daughter of Lord *Sheffield*, has a large MS. containing various valuable materials, historical, genealogical, and topographical, relative to the family of the Stanleys, and other subjects connected with the antiquities of their native county. Sir John very obligingly opened this MS. for the inspection of the writer of this, but for a purpose connected with an ancient legend of the neighbourhood, which has been kept alive as matter of mere curiosity, in the sign of the *Iron Gates*, a public-house on *Mont's Heath*, near *Alderley Park*. Could the writer of this have then contemplated the present undertaking and his connexion with it, he would not have failed to have made a more valuable use of Sir John Stanley's very friendly and obliging liberality. Sir John has also many valuable MSS. of travels ; but the one here alluded to is that with which the British topographer and antiquary should be made acquainted ; and this note is purposely written to convey the knowledge of its existence, and of the owner's liberality to those who may hereafter have occasion to write on subjects wherein such a MS. may be useful ; nor will an intimation of this kind give offence to the communicative mind of its owner, who is always ready to promote the true interests of science and literature.

† A fac simile of it may be seen in *Pegge's Sylloge*. *Bibliotheca Topographica*, No. XLL

tory; Erdeswicke is still less correct. By a deed* of the 16th, of February, 1450—1, Sir John Stanley and Elizabeth his wife were seised of lands in *Tamworth*, *Wiggington*, and many other places in this county, in-tail special, remainder to Thomas, son of Sir John in-tail remainder to Sir John in fee. And by deed of the 6th October, 1458, they were seised of *Clifton*, *Haunton* and other lands in this county, in-tail special, remainder to Sir John in fee. They had afterwards Humphrey, who afterwards entered into all these lands, but was dis-seised by John, son of Sir John by a former wife. To terminate the suits between the two brothers, (described as John Stanley, Esq. and Sir Humphrey Stanley, Knt.) an award was made about the year 1491, by Sir William Stanley, then Lord Chamberlain, and second cousin to the litigants; which orders that John should convey to Master Henry Eydall and William Harpur, Esq. the manors of *Pype* and *Clifton*, and all or most of the other premises above mentioned and alluded to; and who should re-convey them to Sir Humphrey in-tail general, remainder to the right heirs of Sir John their father. Pursuant to this award Eydall and Harpur recovered the premises against John Stanley; and still remained seised of them till some years after the deaths both of Sir Humphrey† and John his son, as it seems by the deed of 13th Henry VIII. hereafter mentioned, Sir Humphrey married Ellen, and heir of Sir James Lee,‡ and thereby, according to Erdeswicke,§ acquired the manor of *Ason juxta Stone*, and granted part of the lands of *Walton*, *Burweston*, and *Stoke*. He lived at *Pype*, and lies buried under a marble, partly plated with brass, on the floor of the chapter of St. Nicholas, in Westminster Abbey;

* Inquis. post mort. H. Stanley, (P. inspez) penes Ric. Watkins, Cic. apud Topogr. II. 4.

† Vide ante, p. 909, where we have detailed, from Pennant, the abominable treachery and cruelty of this revengeful knight.

‡ Of *Stone*, according to the pedigree of the College of Arms.

§ Survey of Staff. in *Aston*.

Abbey, almost immediately under the monument of Lady Jane Clifford. The brass plate contains his effigy in the habit of a knight, with this inscription at the bottom, in old English letters:

"Hic iacet Humfridus Stanley miles pro corpore excellentissim. Principis Henrici VII. Regis Angliæ qui obiit XXII.* Martii Anno Dom millesimo quingentesimo quinto cujus animæ propitiatur Deus Amen."

Toward both the head-corners of the marble, is, on each side, a brass shield; and at the foot there are, in each corner, the places in the marble where were once two others. The nails, or whatever else might be used as fastenings, are still prominent; but their shields are gone. Immediately over the head of the effigy, and a little nearer the centre of the marble, is a large shield of four quarters: viz. 1. Quarterly, Stanley and Latham: 2. Staffrd and Pipe: 3. Pipe: 4. Campville. This last one cannot be easily made out, having been defaced, and that evidently with design. The two small shields at the head bear the same arms as the upper quarters of the large one; and it is probable that those formerly at the foot bore the same as those in the lower quarters. The marble itself has been injured, having a deep indention on the left of the effigy, as if made by a violent blow with the sharp end of a pick-axe. In all other respects the marble and brass plates are in high preservation; the effigy, in particular, being nearly as perfect as when first cut, and the inscription perfectly legible and deep. Sir Humphrey had several children, the eldest of whom, John of Pipe also, was born about 1481, and died in vig. Scti. Joh. Bapt. 6th Henry VIII. 23d June, 1514, leaving by Margaret, daughter of Sir Thomas Gerrard,† two daughters, his co-heirs, Elizabeth, aged eleven, and Isabella aged nine.‡

By

* The Topographer, Vol. II. p. 5 has it 12: this may possibly be an error of the press; but there are other mistakes in that account.

† Ex. stemm: in Coll. Arm.

‡ Inquis. p. mort. Johu Stanley, (P. insper) ps. præd. R. W. apud Topogr. II. 6.

By the inquisition after the death of Sir Humphrey, and John his son, Clifton is found holden of the Duchy of Lancaster, as of the honour of *Tutbury*. Elizabeth, elder daughter of John Stanley, of Pipe, was married to Sir John Hersey,* of *Grove*, in the county of Nottingham, and Isabella to Walter Moyle, of Kent;† and in the 13th Henry VIII. about 1522, R. Eydall, heir of the surviving trustee, in pursuance of the award before mentioned, and of a decree in chancery, granted and confirmed‡ to Elizabeth, Lady Hersey, and to the heirs of the body of Sir Humphrey Stanley, the moieties of Clifton, Pye, Haunton and Aston, saving the right of Richard Huddleston and Margery, his wife, Elizabeth Ferrars, and Christopher Savage. These were the co-heirs (or their representatives) of John Stanley, of Elford, between whom and his younger brother the award was made; Margery Huddleston being his great grand-daughter, daughter and heir of Sir William Smythe, by Anne, his second wife, daughter and heir of William Staunton, Esq. and Margery his wife, eldest of the three daughters and co-heirs of John Stanley; Elizabeth Ferrars, another of those three daughters; and, lastly, Christopher, husband, (or possibly a descendant,) of the third daughter.§

Much of what follows, in the account which for the most part we have been using, concerning the fact of Aston being under

* See Collins, III. p. 412.

† "See Shaw's Staffordshire, Vol. I. p. 380, 411, 416, with the pedigree of Wolferston, where Mr. Wolferston, now of *Staford*, has laboured some minute points in the descent of this branch, with uncommon industry and research." Note a. in Sir E. Brydges's Collins, II. 34.

‡ Ex autograph. p. præd. R. Ws. in Topogr. *Ubi supra*.

§ In the deed of 1456, above quoted, mention is made of a place there called *Ailston*. This has puzzled our genealogists not a little. There is no such place in Staffordshire. Surely it did not require the search "of an enquirer long and closely attentive to the very minutiae of its topography" to ascertain the fact that *Aston* must be the place meant; unless, indeed, they would have it to be *Ailston*, near *Leicester*, which cannot be.

under the award of 1458, &c. it were tedious, and perhaps useless, to detail. The blunder, or ancient orthography, touching *Aston*, has evidently led Mr. Wolferston, if indeed he is the writer, into a maze from which he could not extricate himself, and the still greater blunders of *Erdeswicke*, aided by the subsequent contradictions of Collins, have "made confusion worse confounded."*

In 1564-5 Sir John and Elizabeth Hercy covenanted with Christopher and Dorothy Heveningham to levy a fine of all their moieties in this county, late of Sir Humphrey Stanley, by the names of the manors of Clifton, Pye, and Aston, and lands in many other places, to the use of Christopher and Dorothy, and the heirs of the body of Christopher, remainder to the heirs of the body of Dorothy, remainder to the heirs of the body of Sir Humphrey, remainder to the right heirs of Sir John Stanley, rendering 65l. rent, for the lives of John Hercy and his lady; and, on the 25th of the same month, (March,) Sir John gave a power of attorney "to his beloved John Stanley of Thoursbye Co. Nottingham, Gent." to deliver the deed of covenants to Christopher Heveningham. Christopher being thus possessed of Elizabeth Hercy's moiety, as well as his grandmother's,

* "It is asserted by Mr. Wolferston, in Shaw's Staffordshire, L. 404, from the inspection of original documents, that the genealogical deduction of this branch (the Vernons of *Harlaston* and *Haddon* in Co. Derby) in the former edition of Collins, is full of great errors. But he is not himself able to clear up many of the difficulties which he raises. As I have not, therefore, lights enough to substitute a new and perfect deduction, I have endeavoured in part, to amend the old; but not to destroy, where I could not rebuild. But see still further particulars by the same gentleman in Nichols's *Leicestershire*, Vol. III. p. 983." Note g. in Brydges's Collins, Vol. VII. p. 399.

We have extracted this-note for the information of those of our readers who possess only the old Collins, and yet may be desirous to know what Sir Egerton would say to the complaints of Mr. Wolferston in the *Topogr.* and other places.

grandmother's, made a fresh settlement of the whole estate; dated the 26th of November, 1569, and died 22nd of April, 1574. Walter, his son and heir, born the 25th July 1563, lived at *Pipe-Hall*, about the 4th Car. (being then Sir Walter Heveningham, Knt.) sold Clifton, including Haunton, to John,* the eldest son of Thomas lord Coventry, lord-keeper of the Great Seal, by his second wife Elizabeth, daughter to John Aldersey of *Sparstow*, in Cheshire, widow of William Pitchford, Esq. This manor then descended to John Coventry, heir of the lord keeper.

By way of relief to what some readers will think a tedious detail, we may here give the curious origin of the Coventry-Act. The son of the last named John Coventry was made knight of the Bath, at the coronation of Charles II. and was a member of the long Parliament; and, indeed, in all other parliaments of Charles II. On December 31st 1670, a violent and inhuman attempt was made on his person. Bishop Burnet, † and others, give us the following relation of this business and its consequences. Sir John Coventry was one of those members of the House of Commons, who struggled much against the giving money; and it being then usual, after such bills had failed in their main vote, for those who opposed to endeavour to lay the money on funds unacceptable and deficient: it was proposed to lay a tax on the play-houses, which were then deemed nests of prostitution. This was opposed by the court: it was said, "the players were the king's servants,

* The four sisters of this person were very eminent for their piety, virtue, and great capacities. Dorothy the youngest, who married Sir John Packington of *Westwood*, in Worcestershire, is said to have been the author of that now much neglected, but excellent book, *The Whole Duty of Man*; a work which the enlightened spirit of modern religionists has discovered to be of the most pernicious tendency: teaching little else than the practice of religion: charity, and benevolence, meekness, humility, and modesty. See Ballard's "Memoirs of British Ladies, eminent for Learning or Abilities."

† Own Time, p. 269, 270.

vants, and a part of his pleasure." Whereupon Sir John Coventry asked: "Whether did the king's pleasure lie among the men or the women that acted?" This was carried, with great indignation, to the court. It was said, "This was the first time, the king was personally reflected on: if it passed over, more of the same kind would follow; and it would grow a fashion to talk so. It was, therefore, fit to take such severe notice of this, that nobody would dare to talk at that rate for the future." The duke of York told Bishop Burnet, that "He said all he could to the king, to divert him from the resolution he took; which was to send some of the guards, and watch in the streets where Sir John lodged, and leave a mark upon him." The fact, by bills of indictment, was found to be committed by Sir Thomas Sandys, knight: Charles Obryan, Esq.; Simon Parry, and Miles Reeves, who were fled from justice, not daring to stand a legal trial. As Coventry was going home, they drew about him, he stood up to the wall, and snatched the flambeau out of his servant's hands; and with that in one hand, and his sword in the other, he defended himself so well, that he got credit by it. He wounded some of them, but was soon disarmed, and then they cut his nose to the bone, to teach him (as they said) to remember, what respect he owed to the king; and so they left him, and went back to the duke of Monmouth's, where Obryan's arm was dressed: that matter was executed by orders from the duke of Monmouth; for which he was severely censured, because he lived then in professions of friendship with Coventry; so that his being subject to the king was not thought an excuse for directing so vile an attempt on his friend, without sending him secret notice of what was designed.

Coventry had his nose so well needled up, that the scar was scarce to be discerned. This put the House of Commons into a furious uproar: they passed a bill of banishment against the actors of it; and put a clause in it, that it should not be in the king's power to pardon them; and that it should be death to

maim any person. This gave great advantages to all those that opposed the court; and was often remembered, and much improved by all the angry men of those times." It must be confessed, that no very high degree of anger was requisite to rivet on the memory of any independent member of Parliament the remembrance of so flagrant an attack on their privileges. Sir John was born in the county of *Somerset*, and on that account claims some notice in this work. He died unmarried, and endowed an hospital at *Wiverscombe* for twelve poor people.* For an extended, and just character of his father, the first of the family holding the manor of Clifton, the reader may see lord Clarendon's History of the Rebellion.† It was the opinion of lord Hardwicke, that "lord Coventry was very able, and contributed a great deal towards modelling the court of Chancery."‡

This manor remained in the Coventry family till about the year 1700, when it was sold to Sir Charles Pye, Bart. This worthy baronet built the two wings of a house, which was intended on so large a plan, that he never began the centres; and one of those wings has since served his family as their mansion, and the arches for stabling, &c. After the deaths of his sons, Sir Richard and Sir Robert, (the last of whom was a clergyman, in whom the title ended,) and of his three daughters, Rebecca, Phillippa, and Mary, who all five died married, and of Mary the survivor, on the 14th of December 1774, Clifton and Haunton went by the will of Mary, and, as settled by her and Philippa, between themselves, to the late general John Severne, of Shrewsbury and Clifton Hall, lord of the manor of the forest of *Hayes*, in the county of *Salop*, where he had an old mansion called *Wallop-hall*, and son and heir of Thomas Severne, by Elizabeth, eldest sister of Sir Charles Pye, for life, remainder to the Rev. Rich. Watkins, rector of *Rock*, in the county of Worcester.

VOL. XIII.

B b b b "

Sir

* Vide ante, p. 555.

† Vol. I. p. 45.

‡ See Life of lord Kaimes.

Sir Charles Pye died in 1721, as the following inscription on a mural monument in *Clifton Church* shews :

"To the pious memory of Sir Charles Pye, Bart. late of Clifton Camville, Co. Stafford, son of Sir John Pye, Bart. grandson of Sir Robert Pye, Kt. auditor of the exchequer to king James I. Charles I. and Charles II.

"Sir Charles was a gentleman of such fine talents, as added lustre to his Ancestors, and of such bright and early parts, as by his travels, studies, and observations, to have acquired a complete knowledge of the world, at an age when most men do but begin to appear in it.

"He was a friend to the true liberties and great rights of mankind, and a sincere lover of his country. Christian piety and moral virtues were the guides of all his actions, so that he was highly esteemed by his contemporaries, and stands the fairest pattern to posterity. He died Feb. 15, A. D. 1721, aged 70, and is buried in a vault near this place.

"He was twice married, 1st to Philippa, daughter of Sir John Hobart of *Blickling*, Co. Norfolk, Bart. by whom there is no issue surviving. His 2d wife was Anne, daughter to Richard Stevens, Esq. of *Eastington*, Co. Glouc. who lies here interred with him.

"The piety and virtues of that excellent lady appeared eminent in every station of life, so happy in the endowments of her mind, that she justly gained the highest esteem. She died much lamented, July 12, 1772, aged 60.

"This monument was erected A. D. 1737, by Rebecca, Philippa, and Mary Pye.

"To perpetuate the memory of their worthy parents, at the request of their late brother Sir Robert Pye, Bart."

There is also on another monument, inscriptions to the memories of Sir Richard Pye, Bart. who died Nov. 23, 1724, aged 36; and to "their last and much regretted brother, the Rev. Sir Richard Pye, Bart. who died May 10, 1734, aged 37.

In

In this church hangs also an atchievement of the arms of General Severne, (viz.) A. chevr. B. charged with nine bezants.

In the body of the church is a flat stone, in memory of a servant of Sir Richard Clarke's, of Chilcote in this parish. There are also two monuments, apparently coeval with the church, in the south and north walls: the former under a round arch: the latter under a pointed one, having the figure of a cross on it. It is thought, but upon what authority does not appear, that these are the monuments of the founder and his wife.*

A MS. in the British Museum, partly written in the reign of queen Elizabeth, gives the following curious particulars of *Rollleston Park*:

"**ROLLESTON PARKE** is within the precinct of the manor of *Rollleston*, and within the ward of *Tusbury*, within half a mile of the *castle*, and is in circuit two miles, and containeth by the forestid measure — acres and three roods, whereof in *Marish* overgrown with allors, six acres, in meadow three acres, and the rest is all very good and bateful pasture. It will bear well deer, and sufficient herbage to make the king's rent, which is yearly CVIs. VIIIId. And there are in it at this present CXX deer; there is no covert in all the ground, but the six acres of marish and allors, and the rest is well planted with old oaks and some timber, the number of MXL, whereof may conveniently no sale be made, because it cannot be coppiced; and yet if it might, the trees be so old, that the spring would not increase. The keeper thereof is also appointed by the kings majesty's letters patent, under the double seal. His fee is yearly —

"The lodge rent-free; one horse grass for himself, and two for his deputy, and such other fees and rewards as belongeth to the keeper."†

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"The

* See Topographer, Vol. II. p. 17.

† Harl. MSS. No. 1. f. 16.

"The said manor of *Rolleston* is within one mile of the castle of *Tutbury*, and is well inhabited with divers honest men, whose trade of living is only by husbandry, for the whole manor consisteth only in tillage, and has no large pastures, or several closes, as in other manors of the honor, but has been always accustomed to have their cattle, and sometimes their plough-beasts, pastured in the queen's majesty's park at *Rolleston* for LXXd. the *stage*, which is from the first *Holyrood Day* to the last *Holyrood Day*, without which aid and help they were neither able to maintain hospitality nor tillage, and now of late years the farmers of the herbage have advanced the *stage* to VI. IIIId. and yet the queen's majesty's rent nothing increas'd. The said manor extendeth to *Rolleston*, *Annesley*, and *Ryddings*, which are within the manor and parish of *Rolleston*, and are all suitors to the court and leet of *Rolleston*, and inter-commoners, as if the same were but one entire manor not divided.

"There are within the said manor twenty-eight copyholders which are called *Reves places*, and have an estate of inheritance, according to the custom of the manor, and as it should seem, were in auncient time *bondmen*, for at this survey we found in an *old rental*, the entry of the auncient customs of the said *bond tenants*, the tenure whereof ensueth:

"Every tenant holding by copy of court-roll a tenement, whether it be builded or decayed, and a yard-land to the same belonging, by the name of a *Reves Place*, shall be *Reve* when it cometh to his course, and shall collect the rent of the manor and the profits of the courts, as shall be extracted unto him, out of his own costs and charges, and pay the same to the receiver of the honor, and also at the audit, shall make a true account, as well of the rent as also of the profits of the courts, and pay there before his departure all such sums of money, as shall be then due upon the determination of his account. And if any tenant hold two or three *Reves Places*, he shall use the office of the *Reve*, in manner and form as before, for every

every of them, as if the same were in the hands and occupation of several tenants.

"If any of the said tenants *being Reve*, spend or consume the Q. majesty's rent, so as at the audit they be found in arrearages, and not able to pay, or if any of them flee the country, or commit felony, or any such like, all the copyholders called the *bond tenants*, shall answer all such sums of money, as at the next audit, shall be found due upon any such tenant, for any the causes abovesaid, for as much as the *Reve* is yearly to be chosen, and to choose such as they will answer for his doings at their peril.

"And so forth with the rest of the customs."*

Erdeswicke† gives the following account: "It is and hath been long the seat ‡ of a gentleman, that takes his name of the place, whom I imagine originally to be a *Mutton*, and that being a younger branch, he changed his name, when he became lord of that town, which his armory induceth me to think, being A. a cinquefoil B. and differs only from the coat of *Mutton*, by having a *red chief charged with a lion passant gardant O*, which chief was added, that he might thereby differ from the elder house, given, as it should seem, by one of the *Lancastrians* since they came to have the Ferrers's revenues. And yet I have seen very old monuments of the coat and chief, especially one in *Adbaston Church*, so old that a man would think it to be of Henry III's time; and therefore, I think, set up by the first owners of *Rolleston*, being of this house."

This lordship afterwards came into the possession of the Moseley family, and upon the failure of issue of Sir Edward Moseley, Bart. who married Catherine, daughter of William, lord Grey of Wark, the title became extinct; and his widow

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marrying

* Harl. MSS. No. 71, f. 76, 77. written temp. R. Elis.

† Survey Staff. p. 208.

‡ Not the Manor. It must be a subordinate estate in the parish. Topogr. II. p. 168.

marrying Charles, son and heir of Dudley, lord North, he thereby became possessed of Rolleston estate and manor, which she had in jointure, and was by special writ summoned to Parliament, by the title of lord North and Grey of Rolleston, 25 Car. II.

Oswald Mosley, Esq. a descendant from the second branch of the family, afterwards possessed this estate and manor, with the perpetual advowson of the rectory; he was high sheriff for the county of Stafford, in 1715, and was created baronet the 6th of George the First. He married Elizabeth, daughter of John Thornhagh, of *Fenton*, in the county of Nottingham, and had issue Sir Oswald, who died unmarried, Feb. 26, 1757, when the title and estate descended to his brother, the Rev. Sir John Mosley, Bart.* and now, we believe, belongs to Sir Oswald Mosley, Bart.

Sir John was a very singular character, and possessed all the oddities of an old bachelor, yet was not destitute of many excellent qualities. His seat here, the old mansion of his ancestors, was a poor neglected building; yet, instead of rebuilding this, he would amuse himself with having vast quantities of bricks made, heaped into immense walls about his ground, and sometimes buried beneath them. He was rector of his own parish, and served the church himself many years, till dying unmarried he was succeeded in his estate by a distant relation of the same name near Manchester; who afterwards resided here, greatly improved the place, and built a good house, though in a flat situation, which may be seen from the road.

The baronetage has been recreated in him. The church is a small spire, and has some very old monuments in it. The living is in the gift of the Mosley family, and is valued in the king's books, at 13l. 19s. 7d.

* *Kimber's baronetage*

To the account of *Tutbury* already given, we add the following.

* *Kimber's baronetage*, Vol. III. p. 61.

ing, partly from the MS. survey of this honor, in the time of queen Elizabeth: * "Tutbury, as appeareth by the records, is an auncient honor situate in the extreme east borders of the county of Stafford, upon the river or water of *Dove*, [15] miles from *Stafford*, 3 from *Burton upon Trent*, 6 from *Uttor-ter*, and 12 miles from *Ashborne* in the moorland market towns, and is planted in a country most plentiful of good pasture, corn soil, wood, water, and good meadow, whose lordships and manors, with their members and liberties, extend into the counties of Stafford, Derby, Nottingham, Leicester, Warwick, and Northampton. And the said honor was parcel of the inheritance of the lord Ferrars, sometime earl of Derby, who, as it should seem, accompanied William the Conqueror at his invasion of this realm, for I find in the auncient records of the castle, that in the XIIII year of the reign of William the Conqueror, the priory of Tutbury was founded by one Henry earl of Ferrars, and Berta his wife, and after one Robert earl Ferrars, granted unto the house of *S. Pere* upon *Dyve*, in Normandy, that one of the monks of the said house should at every avoidance be elected, and chosen by him and his heirs to be prior of Tutbury, whereby I gather that he was a Norman, and had greater affection to the Normans his countrymen, than to the Englishmen, or else thought them to be more virtuous in religion than the other. And at the foundation of the said priory, he gave unto the same the best possessions within the honor, which since the suppressions of the house are sold to divers persons, and thereby the honor sort dismembered. And it doth appear, that the possessions continued in the name of Ferrars, from William the Conqueror to the time of Henry III. in the year of whose reign, one Robert, then earl of Ferrars, was attainted, after whose attainer, the said Hen. III. gave all the possessions of earl Ferrars, unto Edmund Crouch-Back, his second son, and to his heirs, and it continued in his succession till Edward III. and then

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one

* Harl MSS. in Brit. Mus. No. 71, already cited.

one Henry, being first duke of Lancaster, had issue Blanch, an only daughter, who was married to John of Gaunt, son to Edward III. and father to king Henry IV. The castle, which was sometimes the lord's habitation and capital mansion, is builded very stately within a park on the north side of the town of Tutbury, upon the height of a round rock of alabaster, and is inclosed for the most part, with a wall of stone embattled, whereupon may be seen all the lordships and manors pertaining to the honor in the counties of Stafford, Derby, and Leicester. The castle was not builded in that place, without marvellous consideration, for in all the honor it could not have been so planted for wholesome air, for the commodious view and prospect of the country, for the strength of the place, the plenty of all things, necessary for the provision of hospitality, and also for hunting, hawking, fishing, fowling, and all the commodities, pleasures, and pastimes to recreate the body and delight the mind. For as the river or water of *Dove* doth from *Uttoxeter* to the river of *Trent*, divide the counties of Stafford and Derby, so did it also at the beginning divide the champain and woodland; for the one side of the water, being the county of Derby, is all *champain*, and very good and bateful meadow, pasture, and corn soil, extending from *Tutbury* to the *Peake* in distance miles, and all the *Peak Hills* and *Moorlands*, being also parcel of the honor, very good sheeps pasture and large wastes. And on the other side of the river, in the county of Stafford, for the more part all *Woodland*, as appears by divers auncient grants, made to the lords William, and Robert Ferrers, sometime earls of Derby, and lords of the honor, in the time of Richard I. king John, and the beginning of the reign of Henry II. and now by mens industry converted to tillage and pasture.

And whether the castle were builded before the conquest or not, I find no mention in writing, but in the south-west corner of the scyte of the castle, within the compass of the utter wall standith an auncient round tower, called *Julius's Tower*, which,

which, as it is reported, was builded by Julius Cæsar, but I suppose that to be but old men's fables.* The buildings within the wall, and also the wall have been augmented and renewed by divers of the queen's majesty's progenitors, since the possessions were united to the crown; and also before, as doth appear upon several auncient accounts, and are kept indifferently well repaired.

And albeit I find no particular grant in writing, how earl Ferrers came to the same possessions, yet I gather they were given him, by William the Conqueror; and that the manors within the county of Stafford (*viz.*) *Rolleston, Tatenhall, Barton, Tunstall, Handbury, Agardisley, and Uttoxeter*, had not so large bounds as they have at present; for the hamlet of *Culingwood*, which is now within *Barton*, was granted out of the forest of *Needwood*, by several times, and by several grants to one of earl Ferrers' servants, by the name of *Rado de Bosco Calumpniato*; the hamlet of *Horecross*, which is now within *Agardisley*, *Hugoni de Melburne et Thome de Cruce*, by the said earls, by several grants, and to hold by several services; and the most part of *Agardisley* was taken out of the said forest, by the said earls, and granted to the tenants by copy, by the name of *Mattock-lands*. The hamlets of *Lande Morton, Drayton, Coton Hamnehill, Stubbylone, Woodland, and Thorny-hills*, which now are within *Marchington*, were granted to divers gentlemen, that served the said earls out of the same forest, to hold to them by several services, so that I gather, that at the first entry of earl Robert, founder of *Tutbury priory*, he took the towns and villages of *Rolston, Barton, Tunstall, Marchington, and Uttoxeter*, as his demesnes of the castle, and part of them he granted (as it should seem) to his *bond-men*, for no *freeman* would be contented to take land with such *villainous* customs, as I find in auncient record at *Tutbury*, called "*the Cowcher*," made in the 2nd year of Henry V, the tenants

were

* We expressed our disbelief of this tradition on a former page. Vide ante, p763.

were bound to observe and perform by the tenure of their land. And yet he reserved in every of the manors, a certain in demean of meadow and arable. And the said *bond tenants* were bound by the tenure of their lands, to mow the grass in the meadow, make the hay, and carry it to the castle; and the arable land, to plough it, sow it, reap it, mow it, and also to carry it, either to the lord's manor-house in the manor, or else to the castle, at their own costs and charges. They were bound also to divers customs, carriages, and services, which at the making of the old *Cowcher*, were reduced into annual rent, until the king's majesty, or the lords of the honour, should come, and lye at the castle again, and then to be at their liberty.

And albeit those *bond-tenants*, held their lands, and had their grants from the lords of the honor of Tutbury, yet did they not all pass in one nature, nor by one especial name or grant, for the manors of *Rollston*, *Barton*, and *Tunstall*, past by the name of *gard lands*, and *Marchington*, by the name of *Organgs of land*; and *Uttoreter*, by the name of a *tenement and certain acres of land*. *Yardland* containeth 24 acres, and every oxgang 8 acres, and the rents were certain. But since that time they have alienated their lands, so that some yardlands hath but 10 acres, and some other 12 or 14, and yet the rent continueth; for he that for his *yardland* or *organg*, hath but half the content of his land, payeth the whole rent, and he that hath double as much payeth the whole rent. And when the lords had made their provisions for hospitality, that the greatest burden of their ordinary of household should be without charge or trouble, and directed themselves to be served by their poor villains in time of peace, of all things necessary for their property and furniture, of themselves and families at home, then began they to devise to increase their possessions with people, to defend themselves and their county in time of war, and to make the honor more populous and stately, erected free-boroughs within 6 miles of the castle; one at

at *Tutbury*; one other at *Agardisley*, called *Newburgh*; and one other at *Uttoreter*; and granted to the burgesses and inhabitants of any of them, such parcels of land to build upon, as in their several grants may appear; and to make men more desirous to plant their habitations in those places, procured for them markets and fairs within the same; and granted to the burgesses, divers liberties of common of pasture, puvnage, and estovers in their forest of Needwood, and also that they should be free of all tolls, tonnage, package, poundage, and other exactions within all their possessions; and granted to *Tutbury* CLXXX and two burgages; to *Newburgh* CI burgages; and to *Uttoreter* CXKVI burgages, which were all inhabited, as it should seem, with handicraftmen: they could not otherwise live; for we find by record, and by the accounts from time to time, that all the lands within the said manors, were granted to divers persons, either by — — — or else to the customary tenants, for there was none reserved to the burgesses, to maintain their living, but only by some handicraft or trade of merchandize. And then were they merchants, not husbandmen, nor graziers, but trated only to the trades of merchandize and other handicraft. Such was the wisdom and policy of our ancestors, to divorce the merchants and handicraftmen from the husband and tyll-men, that none of them should intrude upon other's gan. And by this means the good towns were builded, inhabited and maintained, which now are decayed and depopulated; the markets plentiful with all kinds of provisions, which are now unfurnished; and the county replenished with gentlemen and husbandmen, which is now inhabited by merchants and men of occupation; so that no man is contented with his own estate, which hath brought all things to such extremity, as they have not been of many years before.

The earls of Derby were noble gentlemen, stout and liberal, and had more affection (as it should seem) to the chivalry of Englishmen, than to their religion, and had greater confidence

confidence in their poor neighbours in England, than to their kinsmen and abbeyes in Normandy.

The lordships, manors, and other lands, which were given by them to the gentlemen of Stafford, Nottingham, Derby, Leicester, and Warwick, between the invasion of William the Conqueror and the attainder of Robert, earl Ferrers, to hold of them by divers kinds of service, as of the same honor, do at this day amount to double as much in yearly revenue, as any of the said earls might at any time dispend during the continuance, as many plainly appear by the Feodary's books of the said honor.

Lordships within the honor of Tutbury ;

Tutbury	Tatenhall
Rolston	Yoxall
Barton	Newburgh
Wichenor	Marchington
Bredsall	

Jo. Staff.

The castle park is that wherein the castle of Tutbury standeth, and is in circuit one mile, and containeth by the measure of a xvijth part and a half to the pole, acres and one rood, whereof in good meadow XL acres ; the rest all very good and bateful pasture ; it will bear well seven score deer, and sufficient herbage to make the king's rent. And there are in it at this present, XXX deer. There is no covert in all the park but the clyff, whereupon the castle standeth. The keeper thereof is appointed by the King's Majesty's letters patent, under the duchy seal. His fee is yearly £IV. one horse grass for himself, one other for his deputy : six beasts' grass for himself, and two for his deputy ; and such other fees and rewards as belong to a keeper."*

The Harleian manuscripts contain also one†, descriptive of the

* Harl. MSS. No. 71. written temp. R. Eliz.

† No. 568.

the castle in the reign of Elizabeth. This has already been partly anticipated. This manuscript adds: "The castle is situate upon a round hill, or tower of a great height, and is circumvired with a strong wall of *Astiler* stone; all, saving one, which is fallen down, and repaired up with timber.

The king's lodging therein is fair and strong, bounded and knit to the wall. And a fair stage hall of timber, of a great length. Four chambers of timber and other houses of office well upholden, within the wall of the castle."* Its present state we have already sufficiently described.† We have also already noticed the gloomy fact of the imprisonment in this castle of the insulted, and afterwards the *murdered*‡ Queen of Scots. To that account

* Among the prints of the Society of Antiquaries, is one of this castle in its perfect state, from a drawing remaining among the Archives of the Duchy Court of Lancaster.

† Page 769.

‡ See the ingenious Mr. Whitaker's "Vindication of Mary Queen of Scots" *passim*. Camden calls her "a lady fixed and constant in religion, of singular piety towards God, invincible magnanimity of mind, wisdom above her sex, and admirable beauty; a lady to be reckoned in the list of those princesses who have changed their happiness for misery and calamity!" *Camden's Life of Elizabeth*. But language does not supply epithets sufficiently strong to convey the full weight of indignation which should fall on the memory of the man who, though a "Noble author" could calmly commit to paper so base a calumny as that expressed in the following terms, wherein this unfortunate and virtuous princess is described as "at last reduced by her crimes to be a saint in a religion which was opposite to what her rival professed out of policy." The antithesis is not less unjust towards Mary than it is indecent in its conclusions:—"Their different talents for a crown appeared even in their passions as women. Mary destroyed her husband, for killing a physician that was her gallant, and then married her husband's assassin; Elizabeth disdained to marry her lovers, and put one of them to death for presuming too much upon her affection. The mistress of David Rizzio could not but miscarry in a contest with the Queen of Essex. As handsome as she was, Sixtus the Fifth never wished to pass a night with Mary; she was no mould to cast Alexanders in." *Catalogue of Noble and Royal Authors of England, &c.*

account we will only add the following "ditty," composed by Queen Elizabeth, on the factions raised through her treacherous and cruel conduct towards her afflicted rival. The lines were printed not long after, if not before, the beheading of this queen :

The doubt of future foes exiles my present joy,
 And Wit me learns to shun such snares as threaten my annoy ;
 For Falshood now doth flow and subject Faith doth ebb,
 Which would not be if Reason rul'd, or Wisdom weav'd the web.
 But clouds of joy untried do cloak aspiring minds,
 Which turn to rain of late repent by course of changed winds.
 The top of Hope suppos'd, the root of Rule will be,
 And fruitless all their grafted ; as shortly ye shall see.
 Then dazzled eyes with pride, which great ambition blinds,
 Shall be unscal'd by worthy wights, whose Falshood Foresight finds.
 The daughter of Debate, that eke Discord doth sow,
 Shall reap no gain where former rule hath taught Peace still to grow.
 No foreign banish'd wight shall anchor in this port.
 Our realm it brooks no stranger's force—let them elsewhere resort.
 Our rusty sword with rack shall first his edge employ,
 To poll their tops that seek such change, and gaze for lawless joy.*

These lines were doubtless written before the murder of the
 Queen

Vol. II. p. 203. It is more honourable and just in that writer, who, in estimating the character of the Earl of Shrewsbury, to whose care Queen Mary was committed, during the space of fifteen years, who observes that "this Earl became an instrument to the worst of tyrants, for the execution of the worst of tyrannies." See *Lodge's Illustrations*, Vol. I. p. 15. Dugdale, speaking of this same earl, says, "his behaviour to the queen was generous and honourable, sparing no cost for her entertainment ; neither can words express the care and concern he had for her ; nor can envy itself say otherwise, than that he was a faithful, provident, and prudent person ; which shewed that his integrity was not to be suspected in the least, although evil-disposed persons gave out that he used too much familiarity with his royal prisoner." *Barrowage*, Vol. I. p. 333. See also before, *Beauties*, Vol. X. p. 291.

* Transcribed from the Harl. MSS. No. 6933, in Brit. Mus.

Queen of Scots: they breathe the native vindictiveness and pride of Elizabeth.

The Harl. MS. before cited* gives the following account of the extent, &c. of the different "parks" which in the reign of Elizabeth adorned this neighbourhood:

The park of *Agardisley* contains, in compass XXI furlongs.

The park of *Stockley* contains in compass XXI furlongs and a half.

The park of *Barton* contains in compass XVI furlongs and dim. and X poles.

The park of *Heylyn's* contains in compass one part XVIII furlongs and XIII poles, and every part XV furlongs.

The park of *Sherrold* contains in compass X furlongs and dim. and X poles.

The park called *Castle-hay*, distant from the castle a little mile, contains three miles and an half about, and the deere viewed to CCCCLXXX. And old dottred oakes MMMMMC, and in timber trees, young and old, CCCCXX. noe underwood, but in meadow ground severed XI acres and half, and more.

The park called *Hanbury Park* adjoynes on the south side of the said *Castle-hay*, within one quarter of a mile, containing in compass two miles and an half, the deere viewed CLXX. In old trees dottred and stubbs of oakes M, and timber trees XXX.

The park called *Rolleston park* being half a mile distant from the castle, on the east side contains in compasse one mile and quarter, the deere viewed to CKX. In old dottred oakes M. and XL.

The number of all the timber trees within the parks of *Needwood*, are MMM. CCCCC. VI. The number of dottred trees,† within the said parks, XII. M. DCCC. XLI. after Xth d. a tree, for the dottrels come to DCXIII. and XII^d.

The same curious and interesting MS. gives the following account

No. 568.

† These are trees that are kept constantly low by lopping off the branches.

account of the extent of *Needwood Forest*, of which we have already described the present state.*

“The *Chace of Needwood* is in compasse, by estimation, 20 miles at least, and the nearest part thereof is distant from the said castle† but one mile. It is divided and separated into four wards, (to wit) *Marchington Ward*, *Yoxall Ward*, *Barton Ward*, and *Tutbury Ward*, and every ward containeth five miles or more in compasse, besides other four woods, as *Uttoxeter Wood*, *Rough Hag*, &c. and within the compasse of the ring of the forest there is eight parks impalled, besides the little park that the castle stands in.” These are the parks mentioned above.

In the account before given of Tutbury mention is made of the celebrated Ann Moor, the fasting woman, as she is now generally called. We then expressed our conviction of the truth of her assertions respecting her extraordinary abstinence.

It is now nearly twelve months since that opinion was expressed. Still her real or supposed fasting continues. Nearly six years, therefore, have elapsed since this most singular abstinence commenced; and, for any thing that appears to the contrary, she may yet live in the same way many more years. This case, so extraordinary in its nature, and so rare in its occurrence, merits the most serious investigation and enquiry. If true, the fact should be recorded in works that, from their nature and extent, are not likely soon to be lost or forgotten: if false, a lasting memorial of so curious a deception should be made, that posterity may receive another check to human credulity in addition to many others which have contributed to confirm the value of physical and philosophical investigations, and of their superiority to the blind impulses of fanaticism, or the mischievous spirit of religious imposture, of which we now fear this will prove to be a signal instance. This matter has, at length, attracted the public notice: an acute and sensible physician who has published the result of his observations and reflexions in a well-

* See before, p. 773-776.

† Tutbury.

well-written, and better digested, pamphlet has, we believe, detected this imposition.* Having the permission of the respectable author, we will lay before the reader the substance of what he has observed on this curious affair.

Dr. Henderson, in the summer of 1812, visited Tutbury, on a tour to the lakes, in company with Mr. Lawrence, assistant surgeon to St. Bartholomew's Hospital, and another gentleman, whose name is not mentioned. Previous to their visit they had endeavoured to collect the opinions of the neighbourhood, concerning this case of alleged extraordinary abstinence. Of the medical gentleman to whom they addressed themselves, the majority seemed sceptical on the subject, and pointed out to them many equivocal circumstances in the conduct of the patient, though it did not appear that any very decisive means had been used by these medical gentlemen to prove the fact of imposture. Among the common people there was the most implicit belief in the truth of her assertions; and whenever Dr. Henderson and his companions ventured to express any doubts, they were invariably referred to the *watching*, to which she had been subjected, as a full and satisfactory answer to their suspicions.

These gentlemen were accompanied to the dwelling of Ann Moor by a medical gentleman of the place, who told them that he saw no reason to question her veracity, or to discredit the fact of her abstinence. They found this singular woman sitting up in a bed so constructed as scarcely to admit of her using the recumbent posture, her back being partly supported by a pillow. A large bible lay before her. She did not seem in the least discomposed by their abrupt entrance; though, on reaching the house, some bustle was heard in the upper story, as if preparations had been making for their reception. From

Vol. XIII.

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the

• "An examination of the imposture of Ann Moore, called the Fasting Woman of Tutbury; illustrated by remarks on other cases of real and pretended abstinence. By Alexander Henderson, M. D. Physician to the Westminster General Dispensary." 1815.

the appearance of her countenance, which was natural, and even healthy, and from that of her upper limbs, abdomen, and back, which Dr. Henderson examined very carefully, she might be called rather thin; but many persons of her age, in perfect health, are much thinner. The abdomen was not contracted, nor did it present any peculiar appearance; nor was the pulsation of the aorta more distinctly perceptible than it is in the generality of persons. The lower extremities, however, seemed, to a certain extent, wasted and paralytic; the pulse was ninety-four, firm and regular: the heat natural; both the hands and feet were moist; her mouth, as far as they were permitted to examine it, shewed no deficiency of saliva; and, on holding a mirror before her face, it was immediately covered with copious moisture. She spoke in a distinct and tolerably strong voice, and moved her arms and fingers with considerable force. There was an offensive urinous smell about the bed.

In answer to the questions that were put to her, she said, that on the 31st of October, she would be just fifty-one years old; that she had tasted no solid food for upwards of five years, and no drink for nearly four years, and had no desire for either; that she never even wetted her lips, except when she washed her face, which happened about once a week; that she had voided no urine since the week before Easter three years, and no feces since that day, (August 3,) five years; that she had not slept, or lain down in bed, for more than three years; that she sometimes dozed, with her head reclining on the pillow, but never so as to forget herself: that she had frequently blisters applied to the back of her neck, on account of a giddiness in her head, and that they rose and discharged plentifully; but that, in general, she did not experience much uneasiness, or feel pain, except on pressure of the left hypochondrium; that when she took snuff, which she did habitually, it produced a flow of mucus from the nostrils; that her hands were generally moist; and that she perspired freely over the whole surface of the body, when she had fits. The nature of these

these fits she did not explain.* Her mouth, according to her own declaration, she was unable to open, because it occasioned severe pain behind the jaws; but the lower jaw acted freely enough within the sphere in which she chose to move it in the presence of Dr. Henderson and his friends, to shew that there was nothing defective in the articulation; the masseter and temporal muscles were soft, and could not, therefore, resist its descent: because it was evident, when she spoke, that she could separate her teeth to some extent, and that without giving any indications of uneasiness. Of all the fingers of the left hand, except the index, she said that she had lost the use; the middle finger, indeed, she admitted, could be moved by external force, though not by volition. But while Mr. Lawrence was examining the spot where she complained of pain on opening her mouth, she was observed to use the finger in question without any difficulty. On attempting to raise the two remaining fingers, which were bent, she made some resistance, and complained of being hurt. The left hand, she affirmed, was hotter than the other. In her lower extremities she declared, that she had no feeling whatsoever.

This was the extent of Dr. Henderson's enquiries; and both himself and his friends left her fully satisfied that the history of her long fasting, and inability to eat and drink, was a mere fabrication, which she had contrived with a view to excite wonder and compassion, and which she had been enabled to support by the collusion of those about her person. To support this conclusion Dr. Henderson, who is a gentleman of considerable learning and clearness of judgment, adduces several arguments, chiefly grounded on the observations which he made at this examination. He observes, 1. That the natural and healthy appearance of the face affords a presumption, that no serious disease

C c c c 2

can

* To Mr. Corn she described them as hysterical. *Month. Mag.* Oct. 1843. Mr. Bourne calls them epileptic. *Medical and Physical Journal*, XX. p. 529.

can exist in the digestive organs. 2. That the strength of the pulse, and muscles, and voice, contradicts the assertion of protracted abstinence.* 3. That the moisture of the mouth, nostrils, eyes, and whole surface of the skin, shews that her whole body is constantly sustaining a certain loss, to repair which we know of no other channel, than the alimentary canal.† 4. That the soundness of her intellectual faculties proves, at least, that her condition differs from that of those fasters, whose history may be regarded as authentic. To illustrate this position, Dr. Henderson mentions several cases, from Tulpinus,‡ Dr. Corrie,§ Dr. Willan,|| and from a MS. in the British Museum.¶ 5. That the dissolute conduct of Ann Moore in the former part of her life, and her confession that she once, through imposition, passed for a religious person merely for the sake of worldly interest, are circumstances by no means calculated to inspire confidence in her statements. This fact of her former dissoluteness and hypocrisy is given on the authority of one of her historians,** who is a zealous believer, both in her *faith* and *fasting*. This admirer of hers, after informing his readers that his heroine "in her younger days was a *notorious immoral character*," says that "her present state of mind is of such calmness and serenity, and her *doctrinal knowledge so clear and unimpeachable*, that it must be highly pleasing to every lover of religion to converse with her." This, we must confess, appears

* "Nimia fames, sive inedia hominum vires insigniter prosternit, et non nunquam in summum vitæ discrimen adducit, cujus rei indubia experientia lucuples testis est." Hoffmann, Opera, I. p. 116.

† The experiments of Sequin fix the quantity of matter perspired from the skin, in twenty-four hours, at 52.89 ounces, and of the hydrocarbon disengaged from the lungs, during the same period, at 12.23 ounces. *Memoires de l'Academie des Sciences*, 1789.

‡ Obs. Med. I. 43.

§ Medical Reports, Vol. L. p. 304.

|| Medical Communications, Vol. II. p. 113.

¶ Sloanian MSS. 4432.

** "Account of the extraordinary abstinence of Ann Moore. By J—
L—." Uttoxeter, 1809, p. 89.

pears one of the most suspicious traits in her character; and most dangerous to the credit of her case. Even were it true that her mind is perfectly calm and serene, and her repentance for her former dissoluteness and hypocrisy quite sincere, we doubt much whether "every lover of religion" would be highly pleased at the dissertations of a fanatic on doctrinal points, or that even her knowledge on those points is quite so unimpeachable and clear as her fellow-believers would have us admit. People's tastes differ exceedingly in regard to "doctrinal knowledge;" and, after all, if Ann Moore's *fasting* can be determined by no better test than her *faith*, or the clearness of her *faith* be ascertained by the length of her *fasting*, we fear both the one and the other must rest upon very slender and precarious evidence. But, observes Dr. Henderson, "this has been the way with all such impostors, from the Holy Maid of Kent,* down to her present imitator." Dr. Henderson also remarks, on "the pomp and circumstance, with which Ann Moore displays her pretensions to superior sanctity," and adds, "that the mask is not always so impenetrable, as, her abettors imagine, will be evident from the following short anecdote: A gentleman from Derby, knowing her previous history, contrived to engage her in very free conversation, into which she entered very readily, and which she seemed to relish very much: but, upon another visitor being announced, she instantly resumed a serious air; abandoning it only when the intruder on her gaiety had withdrawn." However

C c c c 3

objectionable

* Cette pucelle fut tenue long temps pour sainte, et pour prophétesse par la subtile invention des Cordeliers; qui mesmes faisoient acroire qu'ell' estoit descendue dâ ciel, et donnoit à entendre (afin que cela fust plus vraisemblable) qu'elle ne mangeoit ni beuvoit, combien qu'en cachette elle banquetast et paillardast fort et ferme avec les saintetes des beausperes." H. Estienne, Apologie pour Herodote, chap. XXXIX. We will not say that Ann Moore feasts with saints, nor, still less, that she *paillardast fort et ferme*, with holy fathers; her appearance, at least, denies all idea of her banquetting; and her present state can offer but few temptations, either to herself or others, to more ardent and criminal enjoyments.

objectionable such a trial of a person's sincerity in religion would be with respect to one in sound health, in a case like Ann Moore's, who neither eats, drinks, sleeps, nor moves like other people; but, if her assertions are to be credited, is under one of the most extraordinary visitations of Divine Providence, that ever befel a human being,

"The least obliquity is fatal—"

to religious pretensions; and this single fact must, in our estimation, destroy her credit, if not her fasting, with every truly sensible person.

Dr. Henderson's 6th argument is, that the interest which she and her attendants have in supporting the deception is sufficiently obvious. Before this fasting business commenced, it appears that she had been "labouring under the greatest distresses," and "had not even sufficient clothes to cover her bed;" but, since the watching, she is said to have been very comfortable, and all necessary attendance has been provided for her.* This is all very right: but Dr. Henderson informs us, on the report of the gentlemen, who it will be remarked is a believer in her fasting, that "she has turned the exhibition of her person to such account, as to be able, in the course of the last summer, to place the sum of 400*l.* in the public funds!" This is really too much for a disinterested religious faster! A few more such summers must render all further fasting quite unnecessary. The 7th argument is drawn from the declaration, "That she thinks a time may come, when God will restore her appetite." As we are now pretty strongly convinced, that this business is a downright imposition, we have less hesitation in expressing our belief, that the appetite will be restored, after a few more summer harvests. 8. The gradual concealment of the evacuation of urine, is another suspicious circumstance in her proceedings. This, however, is a
trifle:

* "Account," &c. p. 11.

trifle: if Ann Moore never drinks, most assuredly Ann Moore will not be very constant in those evacuations, which are so essential to the comfort, and even the life, of ordinary people. She did, however, it seems, pass about a pint of urine in every two days, during the sixteen days and nights, in which she was "watched." So that this woman, who only swallowed, in the course of the first three days of the investigation, about an ounce and a half of water, and that with extreme misery of deglutition,* actually voided, in sixteen days and nights, not less than an entire gallon of urine, besides the ordinary evacuations arising from insensible perspiration, in which it does not appear there has been any material defect; to say nothing of the "plentiful discharge" from blisters before mentioned!

9. The proof afforded by the watching of Ann Moore is not satisfactory to Dr. Henderson, who makes many sensible observations on the number and character of the watchers; and on the manner in which they were chosen and appointed. But particularly on the time allotted to this important investigation: "sixteen days and nights, a period of time during which it is certainly not impossible, that she may have endured the privation;"—but this does not prove, says this sensible physician, "that she has lived five whole years, and odd months, without any nutriment whatsoever."† Instances are adduced, of a much longer protracted abstinence than Ann Moore's "trial," as it has been termed, occupied.‡

C c c c 4

Dr.

* See Mr. Taylor's account in the Medical and Physical Journal, ubi supra, and Dr. Henderson's Examination, &c. p. 35.

† Examination, &c. p. 30.

‡ John Pontanus, ap. Lentulo, p. 87. G. Wierus de Laniis et Jejunii Commentitiis, 4to. Basil, 1582, p. 119, 130. Gent. Mag. Obituary, 1789: Histoire de l'Academie des Sciences, 1769, p. 45. Philosoph. Transact. No. 158. Medical Commentaries, II. Dec. Vol. IV. p. 360. Memoirs of the Literary and Philosophical Society of Manchester, Vol. II.

From

Dr. Henderson's 10th argument refers to her dread of repetition of the watching; but, this as will shortly appear, is now rendered nugatory; as she has consented to another "trial for her life," as her nurse calls it. 11. Her dread of all experiments whatever tells much against her. On one occasion she refused to allow Dr. Darwin to hold a mirror before her face, in order to examine her respiration; exclaiming, "No more experiments for me! I have suffered enough already from experiments." This, however, is natural in an ignorant and illiterate person like her; and it seems she did not refuse the same "experiment" to Dr. Henderson. 12. It appears, that she varies and contradicts herself in her several statements. This certainly is "sufficient to throw discredit on every thing she says."* 13. Her actions, also, are often very inconsistent with her statements. Though, according to Mr. Taylor's account, an attempt to eat and drink caused her great "misery of deglutition," yet she did attempt it, though she had, as she says, "lost all desire of food so early as November 1806." Her deceit respecting the contraction of the middle finger has been already noticed. To Mr. Thompson she affected such weakness as made it great labour, and even pain, for her to attempt to move; but, upon his threatening her with a repetition of the watching, "she so completely forgot her situation," says Mr. T. "that she raised herself upright in bed; a position in which, we had previously learned, she had not been in for more than a year, griped her fists, threw her arms and head about with as much strength and ease, as the most healthy woman of an equal age could possibly do, and talked at the same time most loudly and incessantly, from the effect of violent passion." Besides, how does this agree with the religious

From all these, and many other sources, instances of this kind may be collected. Dr. Plot mentions several instances in this county. Nat. Hist. Stafford.

* Examination, &c. p. 38.

religious serenity of her mind, spoken of by the author of *The Account*, &c.

14th. The acknowledged fact, that she is now in the same, or nearly the same, condition of body as when she commenced her supposed fast, appears of all the proofs of her falsehood, the most conclusive and incontrovertible. Nay it seems, that she is now rather increased in bulk than otherwise! The abdomen is not so sunk, as former descriptions of it represent; nor are the other marks of extreme emaciation so visible as they once were.* "Now, it has been shewn, that a considerable evaporation is constantly taking place, from her lungs and skin: nothing, therefore, short of an actual miracle, can solve the problem of her increased size of body under these circumstances."†

In farther confirmation and illustration of these fourteen arguments against the probability of Ann Moore's fasting, Dr. Henderson mentions several other cases of real and pretended abstinence; and what seems conclusive against this Tutbury faster, is the two following considerations: 1st. That between her and other pretended fasters, there is a marked resemblance of character and conduct: They have all grown rather plumper during their fictitious abstinence;† 2nd. The cases
of

* See Mr. Granger's observations in the *Edinburgh Medical Journal*, Vol. V. p. 321. and J—— L——'s *Account*, &c. p. 25. Also Dr. Henderson, p. 40, 41.

† Dr. Henderson, p. 41.

‡ Vide *Historia admiranda de Apollonia Schreiera inedia*; a Paulo Lentolo, M. D. &c. 4to. Bernæ, 1694, p. 18, 22. *Gei. Buccoldiani, de Puella quæ sine cibo et potu vitam transigit, brevis narratio*. Ap. Lental, p. 32, concerning Margaret Sausrit, the girl of Spire, who was believed to have fasted three years, and was also subjected to a watching of ten days and nights, in the year 1541; and, in the following year, by desire of the emperor Ferdinand, to another trial of twelve days. See also in Lentullus, p. 71, the case of Catherine Binder, who was alledged to have fasted during five years, and who was watched fourteen days and nights. This faster lost her reason

of persons in whose abstinence nothing miraculous was pretended, and no fraud could be suspected, differed materially both from Ann Moore's and all the other impostors, mentioned in the foregoing note :* the patients grew thinner, weaker, and delirious, after a certain period ; and, long before their abstinence had been protracted to the extent of this case of Ann Moore's, death put a period to their sufferings.

Thus have we thought it necessary to enter into the various arguments against the representations of this extraordinary woman, that the conviction formerly expressed in this work, of the reality of those pretensions, might not go forth without some acknowledgement of the error, into which we believe, in common with many others, we had fallen. It is, however, only just to state that a second watching has now† been instituted, under circumstances, more favourable to the discovery of the truth, than the one which has already been tried upon her. The following account has been given to the public of the arrangements

reason and speech, during the first three years, till both were suddenly restored to her, by a Lutheran preacher :—a Lutheran preacher ;—not a cunning Papist priest,—who came to her, and repeated the Lord's prayer, the creed, the decalogue, and other parts of the liturgy ! The young girl of *Uno*, in the year 1573, *et post*, mentioned by *Wierus*, before cited, “ grew considerably during her supposed disease.” But the most remarkable case is that of a young girl, in a village near *Osnaburg*, who, about twelve years ago, took it into her head to counterfeit this kind of abstinence. Her case is described at length by *Van Justus Gruner*, in a tract intitled “ *Authentische aksemässige Erzählung der Betriegeri eines angeblichen Wundermädchens im Hochstift Osnabrück, das seit zwei Jahren ohne Speisen und Getränke gelebt haben wollte.*” The name of this abstemious impostor was Kinker ; and between her proceedings, and those of Ann Moore, there is a number of very curious coincidences. See the parallel at length in Dr. Henderson's tract, p. 49—52. The fasting woman of *Confians*, mentioned by *Lentulus*, at the end of three years, had become more fleshy—“ *aliquanto carnosior.*” Janet Mac Leod, too, was observed to improve in her looks, and health : *Phil. Trans.* LXVII. p. 11. All these cases were proved to be impositions.

* These real cases, have been referred to in a former note, p. 1139.

† April, 1813.

rangements made for this new investigation: "On Wednesday sennight, about two o'clock in the afternoon, pursuant to the regulations adopted by the committee, the watch commenced on Ann Moore, of Tugbury. The room was examined with the most scrupulous accuracy by the committee, and the three gentlemen (Sir Oswald Mosley, Dr. Garlike, and the Rev. Leigh Richmond,) who undertook the first watch, to their entire satisfaction, that no kind of food, either solid or liquid, was, or could be secreted in any part thereof. A new bedstead was provided, a new bed filled in their presence, and every article of the bedding searched with the utmost minuteness. The removal of her person from one bed to another was closely watched in every circumstance by all the gentlemen; after which, at her own request, her person was examined, and every possible satisfaction afforded, that no collusion could have taken place in any part of the transaction. Not a single article of any kind or description remained unexplored; and, when the business of search and removal was concluded, no doubt was left upon the minds of the parties present, that she was entirely deprived of possession of, or the means of access to, any kind of food whatsoever. A barrier is placed across the room, within which the watchers alone occupy their station, and prevent all access to the woman, which could implicate her in the smallest share of suspicion. Various regulations have been made, and are rigidly adhered to, in order to conduct this watch in such a manner, as shall satisfy the public mind, through the medium of the committee and the watchers, as to the truth or falsehood of the case. Her bedstead is placed upon a Merlin's weighing machine, constructed with peculiar accuracy, in order to ascertain the variations of weight during the period of the watch. A number of gentlemen, who undertook to watch her, have signed their names to a report, attesting the minute examination, which they made, and their positive conviction, that no aliment of any kind had or could be conveyed to her. The watch had been uninterruptedly continued.

continued from the 21st to the 27th of April." This watch seems certainly to bid fair to bring this mysterious matter to an issue, which, we doubt not, will be the detection of this long-standing imposture.*

* ~~is not known~~ *

Alrcwest† is exactly six miles distant, in a southerly direction, from *Timbury*. At the time of the survey, or the forming of the Domesday-book, the manor was possessed by *Algar*, earl of Mercia, who left it, with his other estates, to *Edwyn*, his eldest son; but upon *Edwyn*'s rebellion, they being forfeited into the hands of the Conqueror, were disposed of amongst his followers and friends; and this manor given to *Walter Somerville*, a Norman, of whose family, says *Dugdale*, though they were but two, and they the last of the male line, who had summons to Parliament; yet they were, before that time, men of eminent note in their days; the first of them that came into England, being *Sir Gaultier de Somerville*, who seated himself at *Whicknoure*,‡ holding that lordship, and *Barton* near it, by the gift of the Conqueror. From this *Walter* descended another

• Since the above was written, this has been confirmed—The public prints have announced, on good authority, that this infamous woman "gave in," on Friday morning the 30th of April, being the ninth day of this second watch, after having become reduced, to a state of extreme debility and emaciation. Doubtless she had persuaded herself, that she had by habit acquired sufficient strength to support the real abstinence to which she had subjected herself during the period allotted for the complete confirmation of her veracity; but she fought against nature and truth; and she lost the combat. Her case has been the most extraordinary one that ever before exercised the credulity of mankind; and her sufferings, in the experiment (for certainly her abstemiousness, though not absolute, has been beyond example great,) must have been exceedingly severe. This consideration, though it will do nothing in extenuation of her base and dishonest hypocrisy, will at least soften the rigour of indignation, and perhaps avert the punishment which her deception has so richly merited. She has since this made a public confession of her guilt, and her deception; and that she contrived to drink tea, and eat apples.

† Vide ante, p. 780.

‡ The singular tenure, by which this manor was held, has been already described, p. 777, et seq.

another of the same name, who had issue, by Cecilia de Limosi, his wife, Roger, who married Edeline, daughter to Robert Boteler, of *Engleby*, and had by her another Roger, and he a third, who, in the 5th year of the reign of King John, obtained a grant of the manor of *Alrewas*, one of the lordships of the king's ancient demesne, to hold in fee-ferme, for the old rent, and one hundred shillings increase. From this Roger descended Robert de Somervile, his grandson, (son of John) who having married Isabel, one of the daughters and co-heirs of Roger de Merley (a powerful baron in Northumberland) in the 15 of Ed. I. paid 50l. for his relief of the moiety of the barony of the said Roger de Merley; and in the 18th of the same king, obtained a licence for free warren in all the king's demesne-lands, within his lordships of *Whichenoure*, &c. as also for a market every week, upon Tuesdays, at his manor of *Alrewas*, and a fair, yearly on the eve, day, and morrow, of St. Margaret the Virgin, and died the 25th of Edw. I. leaving issue, Roger his son and heir. This Roger left issue Roger his son and heir, who being a knight, in the 1st of Ed. III. &c. and having been summoned to Parliament, amongst the barons of this realm, the same year, but no more, departed this life the 15th of February, 10th of E. III. and was buried at *Anslys* — *Burton* in com. *Ebor.* leaving Sir Phillip de Somervile, Kt. his brother and heir, fifty years of age, who thereupon doing his homage, had livery of his lands.* It was this Sir Philip who first held the manor of *Whichenoure*, &c. under the honor of *Tutbury*, by the very singular tenure before mentioned.† He died the 23rd of January, 29 of Ed. III. leaving his daughters, Joan and Maud, his co-heirs; the former of whom carried this manor in marriage to Rhese ap Griffith, Kt. whose heir (probably son) Rhese ap Griffith, (who died May 10, 1356, 30 Edw. III.) left issue by Isabel, daughter and coheir of Sir Richard Stockpole, Kt. a daughter and heir of Joan, married

to

* Dugdale's Baronage, Vol. II. p. 106, et seq.

† Vide ante, ut sup.

to Sir Richard Vernon, of *Harlaston* Ht.* Elizabeth, the other co-heir, married John Stafford, whose daughter and heir, Maud, married Edmund, son of John Vernon.

The estate, we believe, now belongs to Viscount Anson.

What follows is from a curious MS. communicated to the Topographer.†

The Booke and Register of Wedinges, Christenings, and Burials within the parish of *Alewias*, made and written Anno Dni 1560: Anno: Reg. Elizabeth: 45 from the firste Yeare of the Raigne of Edward the Sixte: JOHN: Fawkenor, Vicar, Nicholas Butler, Marmaduke Courzon William Frauncis, Church Wardens, at the same time.

Anno dni 1568 A morte Roberti Alsop ultimi incubenti in primo Robertus Alsop vicarius sepultus fuit tertio die Mensis Julii anno dni 1568.

ANO: DNI: 1576: ANOQ: REG: RE: ELIZAbethæ: 17.

Elizabetha Regina nra Rediebat Lichfeeldia 80 die mensis IVLY et illic Removebat usq; ad Terciam diem mensis AV-GUSTH anno dni 1575.

ANO: DNI: 1577: ANOQ: REG: ELIZAbethæ: 19.

This yeare the XIth of November appeared a blessing starre which was seene XI dayes after.

ANO: DNI: 1581 ANOQ: REG: RE: ELIZAbethæ: 23.

This 21 day of December, anno 1581, was the water of Trent dryd up, and Soderly fallen so abbe that I, I. F. * went over into the halle meddow in a lowe pearce of shoves about IIII of the cloke in the after Nowne, and so it was never in the remembrance of any man then living at that time in the drowghtest yeare that any man had knowen, and the same water in the morning before was bancke full which was very straunge.

ANO:

* But *querre*? Whether this manor passed from the Griffiths to the VERNONS.

† Vol. III. p. 77, et seq.

* John Fawkenor.

ANO: DNI: 1584 ANOQ: REG: RE: ELIZ: 26.

This yeare 1584 the fyfthe daye of August was the house at the Trent near buylded, or as we saye begone to be reared, which house was buylded by Henry Griffith Esquier, and the same yeare at the feast of the Nativitie of St. John Baptist before was the same Henry Gryffith made one of the Justices for Pease within the County of Stafford.

ANO: DNI: 1585 ANOQ: REG: ELIZ: 27.

This yeare, the VIth of July, ano 1585, the secounde Bell, and the greatest bell weare caste at Nottingham, by Henry Oldefeeld, Belfounder.

ANO: DNI: 1586 ANOQ: REG: ELIZ: 28.

The Xth daye of October William Tunall of Orgrave, being suspected of felony, and haveinge not God in minde, did cutte his owne throte with a knife, and died the XIIth day of October, and the crowner gave judgment he should be buried neare to the church pale without singing and service.

ANO: DNI: 1587 ANOQ: REG: RE: ELIZ: 29.

The VIth daye of November, in the yeare of our Lord God 1587, was judgment given by the Deane of Licheseald in his Visitation that the inhabitants of Edingale should make their pearches in the churche yeard.

Geo.
Buller
Deane
at
Alrewas.

ANO: DNI: 1593 ANOQ: REG: RE: ELIZ: 35.

This IVth of Aprill 1593 was one Boyle, a servante of Coventrie murdered in Croxall woode which had received XXL of Mr. George Curzen, Esquier, the night before, and lodged in his house all that night, and in the morning about V of the cloke was slayne, intending to goo from thence to Burton upon Trent.

This yeare in the summer time 1593 their was a great plague in England in divers cities and townes as in London their died in one week to the number of 2000,* and in Lichfeeld

* This plague raged in London with very great violence in the year 1592.

feeld their died to the number of XI hundred and odde, and at this time of wryting not cleare reasted, being the 28 of November.

This yeare, anno 1593, the XXist of Marche, was an exceeding great tempest of winde, which continued all the daye longe, and did great hurte in many places in blowing downe of steeples, dwelling houses, barnes, trees innumerable, within this parishe their weare VII barnes overthrowen; in Lichfeeld the toppes of steeples of Saint Michaels and Saint Maries by the market place wer blown downe, the speeple of the high church in Stafforde was then blown downe, which hurte the church and chancell and houses about the same, that be the imagination of the townesmen 300l. will not repare and make the same.

ANO: DNI: 1595 ANOQ: REG: RE: ELIZ: 37.

This yeare, Anno 1595, was the Free Schole at *Burton under Needwood* buylded, founded by one Russel, a Londoner—*ut dicitur* Wm. Bocking.

ANO: DNI: 1596 ANOQ: REG: RE: ELIZ: 38

JHON Daniell was killed with a peece of a borde that laye over the hoole in the steeple, and with the falle of the clapper of the greate bell, brake the bourde, and an ende of same bourde hitte him on the heade, and after that he lived about the space of VIII houres, and died, never speaking any wordes but onely these, Lorde have mercy upon me. This was ringing of Curfu, the XXXth daye of October, then being Satterday, the woke even—the Dominical Letter C.

The milles at *Whichnor* weare burned the XXVth daye of Marche, being Good Fryday that yeare, at night about IV of the cloke in the night, which fyre consumed and burned all the things

The Michaelmas Term was in consequence adjourned to Hertford. It continued through nearly the whole of the year following. According to the Bills of Mortality ending the 20th of December of this year, it appeared that more than 10,000 persons had died of it in that time.

things in the mille, the millers bedd, corne bannets, the fyer burste the millé stones.

ANO: DNI: 1601 ANOQ: REG: RE: ELIZ: 43.

This yeare, the first of July, was the bridge upon TAME called the Salter's Bridge, being greatly in decaye and broken downe, was of new begone, and made broder by tow foote, which coste the workemanship tew hundred poundes, wherof this hundred of Offeley payed one hundred poundes, the other III hundredes payed the reste, the XVIIth of July the foundation began to be layed.

The eight daye of January 1601, was one Richard Chase drowned at Salter's Bryde out of a boate, haveing a great bottell of fodder in the boate with him, which after he was in the water tooke holde of the same bottell of fodder, and was carried by the same untill almost to the nether end of *Mytham*, and there peryshed, divers people beholding the same, bothe men and women, but could not helpe to save his lyfe, and the firste daye of February next after, he was founde and taken up, and broughte into the Church yeard, and layed in the grave, and covered withe a bourde, and by the comaundement of the Coroner was buried, after a vewe of his body being taken by honest neighbours the IIIth daye of February 1601.

ANO: DNI: 1605. ANOQ. REG. RE: JACOBI Stio. 1.

The Fyfte Daye of Novémber the Parliament should have begonne, at which daye their was a great treason should have been wrought against the Kinges Majestie, and all the whole house assembled together by the device of a number of Papistes who had conspired by one Thomas Percey, a Pensioner, with others, to have blown up the Parliament House with gonne powder, which was placed in a vante under the house to the number of XXXVI barrells, with faggottes, colles, and billets, but the same was prevented by God Almightye, by a letter sentte to the Lorde Montegele.*

VOL. XIII.

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ANO:

* The author of this volume of the Beauties of England and Wales will
note

ANO: DNI: 1607: ANOQ: REG: RE: JACOBI 5to.

Nicolas Flouden, one of the sonnes of John Flouden, deceased, hanged himselfe the XVth daye of September, his mother

never knowingly lend his support and countenance to the perpetuation of this abominable slander and falsehood so long cast upon the great body of his Catholic fellow Christians; and he is happy in having this opportunity to confirm those opinions and sentiments which he has elsewhere advocated, at the less of many temporal advantages, and the forfeiture of the friendship, (if such it can be called,) of some of his own Protestant brethren. He, perhaps, may be allowed to refer his readers to his "Portraiture of the Roman Catholic Religion." Though in that work mere historical facts are much avoided, on p. 286 the author has thought proper to assert, on venerable authority, that "personal misdemeanors of what nature soever, ought not to be imputed to the Catholic Church, when not justifiable by the tenets of her faith and doctrine. For this reason, though the stories of the Parisian massacre—the Irish cruelties, of the powder plot, had been true, (which yet for the most part are notoriously misrelated,) nevertheless Catholics, as Catholics, ought not to suffer for their offences, any more than the eleven Apostles ought to have suffered for Judas's treachery." This reasoning, and this conclusion, are not novel. King James himself, and even much wiser and much better men than King James, reasoned in the same manner respecting the wickedness of the gun-powder traitors, immediately after the detection of their most diabolical conspiracy and plot. See the King's Speech to the Parliament on the 9th of November, 1605, in that monarch's works. If the powder-plot had been a natural result of Roman Catholicism, surely when the conspirators fled, after their plan had failed, and they had determined to make a stand and defend themselves, they could have raised more than 80 or 100 horse, which was the full extent of their utmost efforts! See *Discourse of the Treason in King James's Works*. Certainly had the religion of Catholics been at all implicated in this nefarious business, all the Catholic Sovereigns of Europe would not have sent their congratulations to James on his providential deliverance! Nay, it is not at all improbable that the letter to Monteagle was a cunning artifice of Cecil's, who was certainly more implicated in this matter than many of our historians are willing to grant. See the Right Rev. Dr. Milner's *History of Winchester*, Vol. I. p. 391, note (6.) See also *Welwood's Memoirs of England*, p. 19, and *Osborne's Historical Memoirs of the Reigns of Queen Elizabeth and King James*, p. 437, et seq. These two last authors are referred to because they are violently unfavourable to popery. But let

ther being goonne to Lichfeild to the market, and with a corde upon the poote hangeles over the fire-place * lyke unto a gybet, so he perished, being of the age of xiii yeares.

This yeare, 1607, their was a great froste and snowe, the which begane the fift^e daye of December, and so continewed untill the fouretenth daye of February, being Valentine's daye, all which all our rivers were frozen over, in moste partes, that the woulde beare horse and man loaded, and cartes loaden; the moste parte of milles weare so frozen up that the coulde not grinde any corne, but with mucche a dooe. And did mucche hurte to mony thinges, as wheate, grasse, and herbe.

ANO: DNI: 1608: ANOQ: REG: RE: JACOBI 6: ET: 41.

The XXIXth daye of November, William Hanson of Frodley being very olde, and a man in cutting and falling downe of an oke tree for fyer wood, and he himsele takeing hould of a bough of the tree, pulled the same upon himsele, and overwhelmed and stroke his head into the ground, and killed him, and the said William Hanson was buried the third of December.

ANO: DNI: 1609: ANOQ: REG: JACOBI 7mo. ET: SCO: 42
et 43.

Thomas Meo, the XXXIst daye of August, intending to wade over the water, betwixt *Belorkes bridge*, and *Salters Bridge*, the water being great, he purposing to goo to Catton to sheare peas, was overcome, with the watter, was drowned, and

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the

let the reader consult the truly impartial notes to Dr. Butler's late *Installation Sermon at Cambridge*. Enough is here said on this head. The author would not let the occasion pass without leaving some fresh memorial of his abhorrence of injustice towards a body for the misconduct of a few.

* In some old large farm-houses these pot-hangels are still used. They consist of a strong iron crank, with a jagged or notched edge, and a short chain and hook attached to it. The crank or beam is made to turn on pivots in the holes of two irons driven into the back part of the fire-place, the long arm of the beam, when turned from the fire, projecting beyond the chimney-piece.

the VIth daye of September was founde, and the crouner ap-
poynted him to be buried the VIIth daye of September.

ANO: DNI: 1613: ANOQ: REG: JAC. 11^o. et SCO. 46 et 47.

Koger * Dune Bely of *Yorall*, was drowned the XXIIId
daye of May, and found and taken up out of the water the
XXIIId daye of May, betwixt *Buslake* and the *Lowe Ground*,
and buried the XXVth daye of May, the jury haveing geven
verdit and scene the ground, where he fell in found it.

Robert Nevoll the father, and Robert Nevoll his sonne,
being in *Salter Holme* feild, the XXVIth daye of June, 1613,
tending of the towne beastes in the *Hardmas Walle*, their after
Stony Furlonge side, about foure of the cloke in the aftermoone
of the same daye, their was a mightie great tempest of rayne,
lyghtning, and thunder, and the father and sonne standeing
under an oke tree, to save themselves from the rayne, were
both of them stricken to death, the harke of the oke tree rent
a great length, the leaves of the tree smitten, and blowen
away the most parte of them; one other yonge youth of ten
yeares of age, Thomas Frauncis, being their seaze or helpe he

being the compasse, of ten yeardes of the same place,
was saved, and nothing hurte, as the other, the heares of their
head singed with the lightning, and in some parte of the body
and face blackned

ANO: DNI: 1614: ANOQ: RE: REG: JAC.ⁱ 12, et SCO:
48 et 49.

The mill of *Alrewas Heis* was reared, and sette up the XXth
daye of November, but it did not grind untill the XXIst of
November, after, being the feast of Saint Thomas Thapostell.

ANO: DNI: 1616: ANOQ. REG: JAC.ⁱ 14. et SCO: 49 et 50.

The XIIth day of December was drowned at *Chicles Bridge*,
William Turner, the sonne of William Turner of *Dunstall*,
servante to William Barnes of the Woode Mill in this Pariske,
rydding towards *Burton Market*, his Mare being slipping on
the bridge fell into the water, the water being out, could not
be

* Quere, Roger ?

be saved, he being of the age of XX yeares, and many neighbours in the company.

ANO: DNI: 1617: Anoq: Reg: Re: Jacobi 15: E. Sco: 50
et 51.

Jacobus Rex Noster redibat apud *Whore Crosse* XXX^o Die Mensis Augusti et illic remansit Die Sabbati, Dominica et Luna abiit.

ANO: DNI: 1618: ANOQ: Reg: Re: Jaci. 16: Et Sco. 51.

The littell bell in the steepell of Alrewas being new caste, weyed before it was caste 1111 hundred and a haulfe, bating viiilb. the same bell now newly cast weyeth 1111 and 111 quarters and viiilb. The casting of the bell is 1114. xiii. The mettell coming to 1114. xiii. and the carriage to Leicester and backe againe, and our expensæs firste the carrying of the bell with another of Whyttington xxd. our parte.

Johannes Falkner Vicarius de Alrewas per Annos continuos 51 Sepultus fuit decimo Die Februarij Anno Dom. 1619, in eo officio mansit a Julii tertio 1568 ad Februarii octavum 1619.

Gulielmus Bockinge, Vicarius, 1620.

Hoc tempore Mortem obiit Guliel. Tooker Decanus Lich:

August 21, 1621. The king at Whichnor, and the court dynded at the Hall there,*

Anno Dom. 1623, Regis Jacobi 21, Scotiæ 56.

This yeare, the market day at Lichfield was changed from Wednesday to two in the week, Tuesday and Fryday, and the first day of the change was Midsomer Day on the Tuesday. This same city had also this yeare three new fayres, added to the old one, which formerly, as now, is held on Ash Wednesday."

A few miles distant from *Wolverhampton*, is a small place called *Moseley*. This place is not otherwise worthy of notice,

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thap

* At this time James was, or affected to be, much indisposed: and, on this account, resided for some time during part of the summer, and the ensuing winter, in the country. His celebrated answer to the Remonstrance of the House of Commons, is dated Dec. 3, 1621, at *Newmarket*.

than that, like *Boscobel*, with *White Ladies*, in *Shropshire*, it contains certain hiding holes, in which Charles II. was hidden by the priests, who might have been rewarded with ten thousand pounds for betraying him ; but who loyally refused the ignoble bribe against their sovereign ; though afterwards, that very sovereign signed the death-warrant of at least twenty priests, merely for being priests ! When the fugitive monarch was tired of the stifling priests' holes, he used in the day time to ascend the oak, since rendered so famous ; and of which we have made mention in our account of *Shropshire*.*

Madelcy is a parish about five miles from *Newcastle*. It contains about one hundred and sixty houses, and nearly one thousand inhabitants. In the church there are several monuments of the ancestors of the earl of Wilton. It consists of a nave, side-aisles, transepts, and a chancel, which is at the east end of the nave, to the north-wall of which latter is affixed a chapel of nearly the same size and plan, as the transepts. It has also a south porch, and a square embattled tower, at the west end of the nave in which is a ring of six bells ; the sixth having been lately bequeathed by Mr. Samuel Stretch. In the interior the different parts are separated from each other by pointed arches, supported on plain pillars. On the north side of the chancel arch are the reading desk and pulpit, the latter of which is an ancient oak, moderately carved with small Saxon arches. The crimson velvet cloth and cushion were the gift of the Rev. Thomas Barlow ; and is mentioned on one of the tables of benefactions. Above the same arch, in the nave, is printed the pater noster, the creed, and the commandments,

* Two miles on the Staffordshire side of *White Ladies*, the house of the Cistercian Nuns, there are still a house and chapel of Benedictine Nuns, who were called *Black Ladies*, on account of their black dresses, as the Cistercians were denominated *White Ladies*, from their white habits. The choir, for these latter nuns, that for the lay sisters, the images on the altar, &c. are in just the same condition they were left in at the dissolution !

ments, on two tables. Between these tables are the royal arms, painted in the year 1804.

A small brass chandelier of twelve lights is suspended from the middle of the ceiling of the nave, and is inscribed:—"BENEDICTED BY SAMUEL STRETCH, OF MADELEY." At the west end of the nave there is a small organ. The following is an account of the benefactions to the poor, &c. On a table over the second pillar, from the pulpit on the north side of the nave:

"The Rev. Thomas Barlow, vicar in his life time, gave a velvet pulpit-cloth, cushion, communion cloth, silver tankard, and salvars."

On another table, opposite the above :

"An Account of ye Benefactors to the poor of this parish.

Mr. Thomas Bowyer left.....	£20	0	0
Ralph Egerton of Betley, Esq. gave.....	40	0	0
Mr. James Shaw	10	0	0
Mr. William Clayton.....	10	0	0
Mr. John Weston.....	20	0	0
Mrs. Rose Thompson left to be dealt in cloth on St. Thomas's Day }	50	0	0
Mrs. Jane Thompson	10	0	0
Mr. John Lightfoot.....	5	0	0
Mrs. Anne Giles.....	50	0	0
Mr. Weston Bayley left twenty pounds which is paid into the parish's hands }	20	0	0
Left by an unknown hand	7	0	0
Ralph Horton Gent. in his life time gave--	200	0	0

In the chancel, against the south wall, on a large board :

"A Catalogue of the Benefactions to the Church, School, and Poor of ye Parish of Madely, given by Sir John Offley Knt. and his heirs.

"Imp. The said Sir John Offley, gave by his will ten pounds, to be paid forthwith to so many of ye poor of ya parish as his Executors shall think fit.

"Item. He bequeath'd to so many poor Men of Madeley and Muckleston, as he should be years old at the time of his decease, so many cloth gowns, to attend his Corpse to Church.

"Item. He gave a hundred and twenty pounds, or whatsoever more would erect and build two decent and convenient school-houses, in such manner as his will directs.

"Item. He directed threescore pound a year, to be payable by his heirs out of the lands of Upper and Neather Thornhall, for finding a schoolmaster, usher, and school mistress for the said schools.

"Item. He directed ten alms-houses to be built, and endowed the same with forty-five pound a year, payable out of his lands and tenements in the City of London; likewise in Hackney, Stepney, and elsewhere in the county of Middlesex, for ye clothing and maintenance of ten poor men or women of this parish.

"Item. He gave a hundred pound to buy a pulpit cloth, cushion, and communion carpet; also two silver flaggons and a silver cup.

"Item. He gave by his said will, twenty pound a year for ever, for preaching a weekly Sermon in the Parish Church of Madeley.

"The Honrd. Mary Offley, widow, late wife of John Offley, Esqr. left to ye township of Madeley, the use of a hundred pound, to be dealt in bread.

"John Crewe, of Crewe in ye county of Chester, esq. great grandson of the said Sir John Offley, gave in his lifetime a hundred and four pounds, thirteen shillings, towards raising the bounty for this vicarage."

MONUMENTAL INSCRIPTIONS.

In the North Transept is an antient marble altar tomb, the sides

sides and ends of which are adorned with 17 sculptural effigies, male and female; some of which have wings, representing angels; but they are all much disfigured by the destroying hand of time. Upon the top are cut the outlines of a male and female figure, and round the border thereof is inscribed:

"Hic jacent corpora randoff egerto' armigeri, et isabell ur: sue, qui quidem randolfus obiit septimo die maijanno d'm mo' CCCCXXII; et predicta isabella, obiit,.... die, anno d'm mo' CCCCC.... quor' aiab'p'pi'ciot'd'Ame."

Near to this tomb is an old oaken chest, in good preservation with these initials and date: viz.

R.S. W.S.

C. W.

1695.

In the south transept, on a brass plate on the floor, is inscribed:

"Pray for the soules of John Egerton, Esqyer and Elyn his Wyf, the whiche John decessed the first day of Apryll in the yere of our Lord God on whose soules Th'u have mercy. Amen."

Both in the north and south transepts are several marble slabs on the floor, having inscriptions round their borders in the old letter; but owing to the fractured state of several, and the many obliterations, they are illegible. Among those on the south side, we could discern Radulphus Egerton and a Margaret.

On the east side of the south transept, are two mural marble monuments. On the first is inscribed:

"In a just regard to the many virtues
of a much honour'd mother, and a
beloved brother
Sir Holland Egerton, bart.
appointed this monument to be
erected
to the memory of Elisabeth, first

Wife

Wife of Sir John Egerton, bart, and
 John, her second son
 (He died in the 17th year of his Age, 1704)
 She was daughter, and at last sole
 heir of William Holland of Denton,
 Heaton, &c. in the county of Lancaster :
 descended from that antient stem,
 whence several noble families, often
 ally'd to the Crown, and other
 memorable persons, have issued.
 She died 1701."

On the second, which is south of the preceding :

"To the memory of
 Sir Holland Egerton
 of Wrine-hill, Farthingoe, Heaton &c.
 bart.

"Descended (by a long succession of ancestors, distinguished with various titles, honours, and great alliances) from the antient Barons of Malpas: by many good qualities and virtues of his own, he did honour to so illustrious a pedigree.

"Rever'd on the Bench, for an awful gravity, and a calm and steady conduct, founded on a conscious integrity and clear knowledge.

"Beloved and valued in private life, for humanity, sincerity, and a fine understanding, improv'd with all kinds of science. He married Eleanor, daughter of Sir Roger Cave, of the county of Leicestershire, bart. by whom he was blest with an ample fortune, a numerous issue, and an uncommon goodness of temper.

"Three of his sons, who died before him, John in the eleventh, Holland in the first, and Cave in the second year of his age (out of a paternal fondness) he appointed to be remember'd on his own monument.

"He dyed in the year of his Age 44, and of Christ 1730, and was deposited in the adjacent vault, leaving the family estate and dignity enjoy'd only about six months, to his son Edward."

Above this inscription on the tablet is a medallion, whereupon is the bust of Sir Holland Egerton, and below the inscription,

scription, are his arms; nothing of which remains distinct, except three pheasants' heads Azure.

In the nave, near the reading desk on the floor, is a slab, inscribed to the memory of the Rev. Thomas Barlow, vicar, who died January 19, 1779, and of his wife Mary, who died May 12th, 1761.

On the south wall of the chancel, near to the table of benefactions above described, on a marble tablet is inscribed :

"This marble,
erected by the hand of Friendship,
protects the remains
of Mrs. Martha Bayley,
Widow of John Bayley, Esq. of the Parks;
who, with the faith and piety of a true
Christian,
exchanged this mortal state
on the 13th day of May 1789,
in the 82d year of her Age.

"Her good sense and benevolent mind, endeared her amiable character to all who were connected with her; whilst her example nourished in her only daughter, the late wife of Mr. Humphry Felton of Drayton, an emulation to imitate so excellent a parent.

"The fondest tribute, which affection pays the dead, is only allotted a transient date; but the actions of the good and the virtuous have elsewhere a permanent record, which neither the darkness of the grave can conceal, nor the ravages of ages moulder away."

Immediately below the above, on a brass-plate fixed in the wall :

"Carolus Shaw, M. A.
3 Coll. SS. Trin. Cant.
Ecclesie hujus vicarius, Anglicanæ Pastor fidelis;
vir
humanitatis eximius, sinceritatis integerr,
charitatis verè Christianæ
obiit Oct. 28 anno domini 1702,
ætatis 42."

By

By the side of the west wall of the chapel, which is attached to the north side of the chancel, is a marble monument which consists of a pedestal about two yards high, one broad, and one thick. Above the pedestal is a large urn, which rests upon a plinth or square piece of marble, supported by the pedestal: on three sides of this plinth are sculptur'd three shields, which are too much effaced to blazon. The height, from the base of the pedestal to the top of the urn, may be about four yards; but, in stating these dimensions, we write merely from conjecture, not now having the means of ascertaining the dimensions with accuracy. On the front, or die of the pedestal is inscribed:

"Johanni Crewe Offley,
 Johannis Offley de Madeley
 in comit Stafford, Armigeri,
 e Maria (cui pater Thomas Broughton
 de Broughton in eodé comit. armiger)
 filio et hæredi;
 trium liberorum superstitum
 Johannis, et Crewe, prolis masculæ,
 et filiæ Mariæ
 patri:
 Septembris die VI.
 anno D'ni MDCLXXXVIII.
 ætatis XXXVIII denato;
 Anna uxor unica
 (Johannis Crewe de Crewe
 in com. pal. Castr. armigeri,
 et Carewe filis Arthuri Gorge
 de Chelsea in com Midd.' eq. aurati
 filia,
 e duabus relictis nata major)
 hoc monumentum posuit."

Over the north window of this same chapel, on a beam, is carved 1643; which is, probably, the date of the repair of the church.

This church stands by the side of a public road in the village;

lage; and to the west, on the opposite side of the road, is a school, which is a plain old building, with two apartments, one for the boys, and the other for the girls; it has also a small area enclosed before it. This school, we believe, is the same that was founded and endowed by Sir John Offley as stated above in the benefactions.*

Near this place is *Betley*,† which was formerly a market-town. It contains about one hundred and forty houses, and nearly seven hundred inhabitants. It is a very pleasant place, as we have before observed. Near the village is a fine pool, called *Betley Meere*, which belongs to the earl of Wilton. It is now chiefly remarkable for its excellent gardens, which contribute largely in the supply of vegetables to the neighbouring towns and villages. The church, which deserves notice, is situate in the village, and has been built at three different periods. It has a nave, side ailes, a chancel at the east end, and a square tower at the west end of the nave. The most ancient part of the edifice is the nave and ailes; which, as well as the chancel, have plain common tile roofs. The windows of the former are also very plain, being "merely common make-shift frames for containing quarries of glass." The side-walls of the nave are part wood, and part plaster; the timber is framed after the ancient manner, and the spaces between filled with plaster, &c. The ailes were, no doubt, cœval with the nave; but from prior decay, the walls thereof have been rebuilt with common brick. In the interior, the nave is separated from the ailes by four plain pointed arches on each side. The pillars which support them are merely single trunks of trees; and the architraves of the arches, (if we may use the expression,) are plain curved pieces of wood. From the three middle pillars or trunks are turned three similar plain wooden curves across the nave; thus making the nave to exhibit a succession of three pointed arches. The dimensions are as follows:

The length of the nave and ailes may be about 15 or 16 yards,

* Gent. Mag. 1809, p. 409.

† Vide ante, p. 939.

yards. The ailes are narrow, being not quite three yards in breadth. The breadth of the nave is about six yards. There is a small west gallery; and at the east end of the north aile and nave is a large seat, enclosed by a wooden screen, about eight or nine feet in height from the floor.

The nave is separated from the chancel by a wooden partition, on the south side of which is the desk and pulpit, which are adorned with crimson velvet, as is also the altar. The upper part of the partition is neatly ornamented on the side fronting the nave, with three painted tables of the Lord's prayer, Ten Commandments, and the Belief. Above the Lord's Prayer and Belief is painted a dove in glory; and above the Ten Commandments are the King's arms; on each side of which is painted a group of three angels. The doves and angels are on a blue ground.

The chancel is built of stone, in a good style, and seems to have been erected by one of the Egertons, as appears from the following imperfect inscription on some panes of the east window, extending across it in one line:

This Chancel build....ano: do 1610
by Raulph... Esquire.....
to Sir Raulph.....Wrinchill kni...
had Issue....

Upon entering the chancel from the nave, there hangs an hatchment, in memory of Mr. Tollett against the north wall. Arms: checky, argent and azure, on a chevron engrailed or, three anchors azure; on a chief gules, a lion passant argent (Tollet). It has an escutcheon of pretence argent, bearing on a chevron azure, three garbs or (Cradocke). Crest. A tower proper, surrounded by a pyramid azure, round which appears, coiled and descending, a serpent proper langued gules. Motto:

Prudentia in Adversis.

At

At the east end of the chancel are mural monuments. That on the north wall is the most ancient: it contains two small Ionian columns, the bases and capitals of which have been gilt.

These columns support an entablature, the middle part of which is heightened by a circular arch or round pediment. At the top, above each column, is a shield, each bearing the same arms, viz.

Gules, a fess ermine between three arrow heads argent, and between the two in chief is a crescent of the same, for difference.

The entablature, small columns, and the member or part upon which the columns are supported, form a kind of niche, by projecting about nine inches from the wall, within which are a small male and female image in a devotional attitude, with a desk between them, on each side of which is a book open. Behind the female is a third figure, a female, and smaller than the other two. Above these figures, on the back ground, are three coats of arms. The two outer coats are the same as those above described.

The middle coat, which is the largest, is quarterly; the first and second, and the third and fourth, are respectively alike.

The first and second quarters are tierce in pale; 1st, the same as above described; 2d, ermine, a fess, gules, and fretty or; 3d, argent, on a chevrou gules, within a border engrailed of the last; 3. the same as the above.

Above this last coat, within the circular and highest part of the entablature is the following inscription:

" HERE LIE YE BODIES OF RALPH EGERTON OF SETLEY,
ESQUIER AND FRANCES HIS WIFE, DAUGHT: TO SR RALPH
EGERTON OF WRINE HILL, KNIT. WHO HAD ISSUE SR
RALPH EGERTO', KNIT, WILLIAM, MARY, AND FRANCES,
WCH RALPH DIED YE 17TH OF APRIL, 1610."

Directly,

Directly opposite, on the south wall is a modern marble monument, having the arms of Tollett on a shield at the top; below which, on a white tablet, is inscribed

" IN THE YEAR 1768,
 GEORGE TOLLET, ESQ.
 ERECTED THIS TO THE MEMORY OF
 HIS MOTHER MRS. ELIZABETH TOLLET, AND
 HIS GRANDFATHER GEORGE TOLLET, ESQ.
 COMMISSIONER OF THE NAVY IN
 THE REIGNS OF KING WILLIAM AND QUEEN ANNE.
 THEY BOTH DIED IN A VERY ADVANCED AGE,
 AND ARE BURIED IN A VAULT BENEATH
 THE OPPOSITE MONUMENT.
 ALSO IN THE SAME VAULT LIETH INTERR'D
 THE BODY OF THE ABOVE NAMED GEORGE
 TOLLET
 THE YOUNGER, ESQ. WHO DIED UPON THE 22ND
 DAY OF OCTOBER 1779, IN THE 45TH YEAR OF
 HIS AGE.
 HE WAS LEARNED AND CHARITABLE."

BENEFACTIONS.

The following account of the benefactions to the poor is collected and abridged from the tables hung up in different parts of the church.

1st, A School-house.

Mr. Richard Steele of Barthomley, gave ten pounds to build a school-house for the use of the school-master; elected by the parish for ever.

2d. The Instruction of Poor Children.

Marmaduke Jolley bequeathed ten pounds; the interest to be annually applied to the teaching of poor children at Betley school. This is paid by the churchwardens.

Mrs. Mary Lea, widow, late of Wrine-hill, gave a yearly rent-charge of forty shillings, to be issuing from certain lands

in the parish, for the keeping of ten poor children to school yearly for ever.

3. Apprenticeships.

William Palmer, a native of Betley, left unto trustees the sum of 73*l.* to be disposed of, at their discretion, for the best use of the poor. After having improved the donation by employing it at interest for a while, they bought a piece of land with it, situate in Audley and Halmore end, called the *Rushey Keys*; and, by deed, they appointed the yearly rent for ever, to be employed every year for setting to apprenticeships the poor children of the inhabitants of Betley. The particulars respecting the appointment, rejecting, and number of trustees, &c. are to be seen on a board in the west gallery.

4th. Relief in Clothing.

Mrs. Mary Lea (see article 2,) left by will to trustees, the sum of 30*l.*; appointing the interest thereof to be annually disposed of by them, for the clothing of poor people in Ransall and Wrine-hill, at their discretion.

5th. Relief in Bread and Money.

Mr. Joseph Coape, of this parish, gave 10*l.*; the interest thereof to be paid for ever by the trustees, and to be given in bread to 20 poor people, on the first Sunday in the year, and on Whitsunday.

Mr. Richard Gorton, of the parish of Mucleston, bequeathed 10*l.* to the churchwardens; and appointed the interest thereof to be distributed at their discretion to the poor every Candlemas Day.

Marmaduke Jolley, (see article 2,) bequeathed 10*l.*; and appointed the interest thereof to be given to the poor for ever every Christmas.

Mr. John Dale, of Radwood, gave 10*l.*; the interest to be paid yearly to the poor.

Mrs. Ann Shaw, a native of Betley, gave to trustees 10*l.*; the interest to be paid yearly to the poor.

Mrs. Mary Lea, (see articles 2 and 4,) gave a rent-charge of forty shillings, (charged on the same land as that in article 2,) to be dealt in bread yearly to poor widows in Betley and Wrine-hill.

The following benefaction is, of course, extinct :

Miss Hannah Jones, of London, gave 24l.; to be given weekly in bread to 12 poor widows, for 10 years from Lady-Day 1706.

She also gave 20l. towards rebuilding the steeple and hanging the bells.

The tower is built of stone, has a parapet wall at the top, and on each of the four angles has been placed a plain urn. The vane is perforated with 1713, which was the time, we may presume, when it was built ; a conjecture which is strengthened by the last recorded benefaction of Miss H. Jones.

The living is a curacy in the deanery of Newcastle and Stone, archdeaconry of Stafford, and diocese of Lichfield and Coventry.

Queen Anne's bounty was obtained for it, in 1717 ; when the right hon. Lord William Powlet and others gave 20 acres of common ground, to the value of 200l. towards the augmentation.

Patron, George Totlett, Esq. of Betley Hall.

Though Betley Hall in appearance is inferior to many in the neighbourhood, yet it deserves notice as affording a specimen of the manner in which the ancients made their first attempts, in their progress towards forming the pointed arch and groins, now so much admired for contributing to the grandeur and ornament, of what, by an absurd anomaly, is called the *Gothic style*.*

* * * * *

We hasten now to complete our survey of this county ; and return northward, to a house called *Ashcomb*, in the Totmanslow Hundred, near *Leak*. This is a comfortable well-built house,
belonging

* *Gent. Mag.* 1809, p. 521.

belonging to *William Sneyd, Esq.* son and heir of the late *John Sneyd, of Belmont, Esq.* before mentioned in this work, as the annotator on Mr. Pitt's Agricultural Survey. *Ashcomb* is built upon the site of an old manor house, formerly called *Bottom Hall*, belonging to the Jolliffes, who had half the manor, and a very extensive estate in this parish, (which is that of *Chedleton*, belonging to *Alstonfield*,) and the adjoining parishes. When the late Mr. Sneyd first came to reside in this parish, the neighbourhood was nearly in a wild state; but, by acting as an impartial and worthy magistrate, for nearly forty years, he in fact *tamed* the inhabitants; and by his good taste in ornamenting his place, then called *Belmont*, by planting, &c. for which he was presented by the Society of Arts, with three gold medals, and by his knowledge in agriculture, he changed those barren heathy commons to one of the most beautiful summer retreats in this part of England. Some idea of Mr. Sneyd's character and taste, may be collected from a letter, [LIX.] in the collection of Miss Seward's Letters, lately published. "Mr. Sneyd's recommendation must make me wish to read any book, which obtains it." This merited compliment refers to that most singular of novels, *The Monk*.

In the poems of Sir Aston Cockaine, printed in the year 1658,* are the following lines, descriptive of the manners of

E e e 2

the

* See "*A Chain of Golden Poems*," otherwise intituled "*Choice Poems of several Sorts*," 8vo. This Sir Aston was of a very ancient family in Derbyshire. He had an academical education, was fellow of Trinity College, Cambridge, and was honoured with the degree of M. A. of the university of Oxford, while he resided there during the civil wars. He was a great sufferer, both for his loyalty and for his religion, and shared in all the hardships the Roman Catholics then underwent. After residing sometime in the inns of court, he went abroad with Sir Kenelm Digby. The politeness of his manners, his love of the liberal arts, and his vein for poetry, gained him much esteem. The great iniquity of the times, and his gay way of living, very much impaired his estate. He, however, reserved to himself an annuity for life. He lived to a very great age; and, dying at Derby, about the
commencement

the times, and of the hospitable character of Colonel Ralph Sneyde, of Keel :

" To my Noble Cousin Colonel Ralph Sneyde,

When the last spring, I came to Keel, and found
 Old Hospitality on English Ground,
 I wonder'd and (Great Sidney) did prefer
 My SNEYDE superiour to thy Kalandr.
 All things are neat, and jovial plenty keeps
 Continual festivals by years not weekes :
 The good decal'd House-keeping doth revive,
 And doth preserve our English Fame alive.
 So liv'd our worthy ancestours, and so
 May you! till you the oldest man may grow
 Within the land ; and ripe for heaven go hence,
 Remon'd as far as known. Poets th'expence
 Of time and paper both may save that day,
 The poor your lasting 'st epitaph will say."

Ball Haye, has been already briefly mentioned. This place has for many centuries been in the possession of an old and respectable family of the Devenports, as appears by the monuments in Leek church yard. The last of that name was the maternal uncle of J. Hulme, Esq. M. D.* the present possessor of the house and estate.† In the grounds adjoining the car-

riage

commencement of the great frost, in February 1683, was buried at *Poleworth* church, in the chancel. His title of baronet was disputed in the herald's office : for happening to receive that honour soon after king Charles I. had left his Parliament, his name and patent were not enrolled. He wrote some plays, and several poems. His tragic-comedy, intituled *Trappolin*, &c. was pirated by some plagiary, under the title of *Duke and no Duke*. The tragedy of "*Ovid*," had a new title, with Sir Aston's picture. The tragic-comedy called "*Tyrannical Government*," is ascribed, but upon doubtful authority, to his pen. This may also be said of *Thyrites*, an interlude. He also translated the *Dianca* of Giovanni Francisco Loredano, a romance.

* This gentleman, though he has a medical diploma, does not at present practise as a physician.

† Our view of this house, and the stupendous rocks by which it is partly encompassed, was taken from Leek church yard ; and will convey a tolerably correct view of this romantic scenery.



riage road to *Leek* there is a mineral spring which appears to contain a portion of sulphur, and is a strong chalybeate; but no accurate analysis has ever been made of its water. The improvements in Agriculture here have been considerable within the last few years, so that, from the different acts of inclosure that have lately been obtained, the term *Moorlands* may soon be extinct; and from the extensive plantations made by the present earl of Macclesfield, who is the lord of the manor, Dr. Hulme, and Thomas Mills, Esq. it may with propriety assume the name of *Woodlands*. The centre hill, in the annexed view, called *Hencloude*, and forming part of what are called the *Roches*, Dr. Hulme is now planting; and in a few years it will much increase the beauty of that varied and extensive scene. There has within these few years been a large reservoir of water made betwixt the townships of *Badgerd* and *Horton* for the benefit of the canal. This reservoir covers upwards of two hundred acres of land; it is well wooded on each side, and possesses many beauties, little inferior to some of the *Cumberland lakes*. The mechanism, by which the water is discharged from the reservoir, is very curious, and deserving the particular notice of travellers and tourists.

LONGNOR

is a small market-town, in the parish of *Alstonfield*, about six miles north-east of *Leek*. It contains about one hundred houses, and four hundred inhabitants. The market is on Tuesday; and is remarkable for the very limited time usually allotted for the sale of its various commodities, which consist for the most part of pigs, and butcher's meat. The stalls are usually begun to be erected about four o'clock, in the afternoon; and before six they are all cleared away—the bustle of the market is over; and the people have retired to their respective houses in the neighbourhood. The market is, however, very well attended.

Here is a small church, or rather chapel, to the vicarage of *Alstonfeld*. There are also a few Dissenters and Methodists.

At, or near this place, was born *Andrew Bromwich*; a priest who suffered much persecution for being a Roman Catholic. He was educated at the English college at Lisboe, where he was ordained and then sent back to his native country upon the mission. He followed his sacred function near Wolverhampton; till the plot breaking out in 1678, he was apprehended and committed to Stafford goal. He was tried at the county assizes, August 13th, 1679, together with William Atkins, a Jesuit; Sir William Scroggs sitting upon the bench. The evidence against him was produced by one Anne Robinson, who swore, that she frequently heard him say mass, and had herself received the sacrament at his hands. This dreadful charge of worshipping God according to the dictates of his own conscience, and the forms of his ancestors, was farther confirmed by one Geoffrey Robinson, who deposed that he had heard Mr. Bromwich repeat something in a language which the deponent did not understand, and use certain ceremonies in a surplice, &c. This man's wife, Jane, being called, would not swear that she knew any thing injurious to the prisoner's character. Notwithstanding this, poor Mr. Bromwich was condemned to die; but his abominably vile persecutors afterwards thought better of the matter, and he was reprieved and pardoned. It is painful and humiliating to a Protestant writer, to have occasion to mention instances of bigotry like this; and many, to our shame be it spoken, there are.

This village was supposed to lie waste at the Conquest, being in so wild a part of the country; and is said not to have been inhabited, for a considerable time afterwards. It is not mentioned in Domesday-book, nor in the record called *Nomina Villarum*, taken in the time of king Edward II.

Paynesley was formerly a seat belonging to the Draycots, who kept, according to the custom of those times, a fool or jester, whose name was Richard Morse. This man had a very
singular

singular sagacity, in distinguishing times and particular seasons. He could not only tell the changes of the moon, the times of the eclipses, and at what time Easter and Whitsuntide would fall, or any other moveable feast whatever; but could also tell, at what time they had fallen, for several years previously; and when they would fall at any distance of years to come. The author of the *Magna Britannia** conjectures that all this wonderful knowledge resulted not from any acquired knowledge, or "any thing that depends on custom or instruction," but "must be referred to some remote and unknown impression, intimately seated in his soul."

Oserholm is a small place, at one time famous for a spring, the water of which, though cold in itself, would never freeze in the hardest weather. This spring formerly fed a mill-pool, or reservoir of the place; and hence the mill, during the severest frost, never stopt for want of water.†

This place gave birth to Richard Caldwell, M. D. a person so highly valued for his learning and skill in his profession, that he was chosen censor of the college of Physicians, then one of the elects, and lastly president. He was the author of several works relating to his profession; and having given a salary to Linacre's Surgical Lecture, translated the tables of surgery, briefly comprehending the whole art and practice of it, written by Horatio More, a Florentine physician, and printed at London 1585, in folio. Dr. Caldwell died the same year, and lies buried in the church of St. Bennet, Paul's Wharf, the College of Physicians being then in *Knight Ryder Street*, near that church, London.

Crakemarsh was, before the Conquest, the demesne of Algar, earl of Mercia; but in the 20th year of the conqueror's reign it was in the hands of the crown. It afterwards became the estate of earl Ferrers, earl of Derby. Robert de Ferrers, earl of Derby, gave it, with his daughter Maud in marriage, to Bertram de Verdon, the sole daughter and heir of

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Nicholas

* Vol. V. p. 107.

† Ib.

Nicholas de Verdon. She married Nicholas de Battiler, but retained her surname, and left the estate to her son, John de Verdon; after whom Theobald de Verdon dying without male issue, Elizabeth carried this manor by her marriage with Bartholomew, lord Burghesh, into his family. After them the family of Delve possessed it; and from them it descended to lord Sheffield, whose descendant sold it to his brother Christopher Sheffield. It was afterwards sold to Mr. Robert Collier, and by his son to Sir Gilbert Gerrard, master of the rolls, in whose posterity it remained many years. To whom it at present belongs we have not been able to learn. It is a very excellent lordship, lying in a good soil, between the rivulet Tync and the Dove, near their junction.

Stanley is a small village, from whence it is supposed that all the families of the *Stanleys* take their name. It is so called from the stony quality of the soil, the place being surrounded with craggy rocks. It was originally the estate of the Audleys, having been given by Adam, the son of Ludolph de Audley, to William, the son of Adam de Stanlegh, his uncle, in his exchange for his manor of *Talk*. Sir Rowland Stanley, of whom the earls of Derby descended, and other families of the same name, was owner of this lordship in the beginning of the 17th century. It is now the property of the earl of Macclesfield.

Throwley was formerly the seat of a very ancient family, of the name of Meverel, of whom it is said,* that they were "a family of good gentlemen, and of a good estate, equalling the best sort of gentlemen in the shire, though God hath not blessed the heirs for two or three descents, with the best gifts of nature." The name of the place is not found in any ancient record, and therefore may be supposed a hamlet of *Grindon*, or some other neighbouring great manor; but that the family of Meverels is ancient appears from hence, that Oliver de Meverel lived in the fifth year of king John's reign; and

* Mag. Brit. V. p. 109.

and that Thomas Meverel, in the second year of Edward I. married Agnes, the eldest daughter of five, and one of the heirs of Gerebert de Gayton. It is in this parish, that the Hamps and Manifold begin to join their streams, after their subterraneous passage, before mentioned.

Totmanslow must once have been a place of some note and extent; otherwise it is difficult to account for its having given name to the whole hundred. It is now, however, a mean place, famous for nothing but for once having a tumult of some Saxon commander, slain in the neighbourhood. This law is now extinct; nor has any thing of it been known from observation these sixty or seventy years. Mention is made of one Ralph Rees, a shepherd of this place, who was upwards of one hundred and twenty-seven years of age, when examined by Dr. Morton. This man accounted for his extreme longevity, under God, to his never having taken tobacco or physic, nor drank between meals, alleviating his thirst by rolling pebbles in his mouth, &c.*

Cattishill had a Roman barrow, lying upon Watling Street, the tumulus of some eminent commander in the wars, who died in the neighbourhood.†

Chedleton is mentioned in Domesday book, as belonging to William, who held it of Roger de Montgomery, earl of Arundel, &c. and that it belonged to *Wersley* in *Alstonfield*. In the reign of William Rufus one Sisardus was lord of the manor. He had issue Peter, whose son or grand-son, Peter, had a son William, who being a knight took the name of *Chettleton*; but his son Robert was called Robert Sisard, lord of *Chettleton*; yet his posterity kept the name of *Chettleton*, and were not called Sisard. After some descents, male issue failing in William Chettleton, who in fact died childless, and Annabella his sister being heir, who marrying William Bromley, carried her estate into his family; but having only a daughter of her own name, by him, married to Sir John Hawkstone, Knt. by whom she

* Mag. Brit. V. p. 110.

† Ib. p. 99.

she had also a daughter and heir Ellen, who married William Egerton, her estate passed into that family. We believe it now belongs to the earl of Macclesfield.

To this manor also belonged the lordship of *Cusnel*. William de Chettleton gave it to Philip Draycot, in the reign of king John.

The northern extremity of the county terminates at a place called *The Three Shires' Stones*. These stones stood on an eminence; and formed a sort of inverted triangle, the lowest angle being the stone standing in Staffordshire, and the two others describing the base, being respectively in Derbyshire to the east, and in Cheshire to the west.

Nothing now remains for us to notice, as far as the limits of our plan have allowed us, but a few additions to the rich and interesting BIOGRAPHY, of this every way fertile county. Some of the names have escaped us at the time we were mentioning the respective places of their birth; and of others the exact places are not known. Of this latter description is the unfortunate

EDMUND DUDLEY, a distinguished lawyer and statesman, in the time of Henry the VII, who was born here, as is generally believed, in the year 1462. He was the son of Sir John Dudley, second son of John Dudley,* baron of Dudley, and knight of the garter. At the age of sixteen he entered of the university of Oxford;† and, having studied the usual time there, removed to Gray's Inn, in London, with the intention of following the profession of the bar.‡ His diligence in prosecuting his studies could not be exceeded; and, as the reward of his industry, no sooner did he commence practice, than business increased upon him with the utmost rapidity.§ Polydore Vergil|| asserts that he

was

* *Baronagium Anglie*, p. 21.

† *Athen. Oxon*, l. col. II.

‡ *Fuller's Worthies in Staff.* p. 43.

§ His arms, finely depicted, were placed in one of the windows of Gray's Inn Hall. *Origin. Juridicia*, p. 309.

|| *Historia Anglie*, p. 567, n. 10; and *Fuller's Worthies*, ubi supra.

was so much remarked for his singular prudence and fidelity, that the king appointed him one of his privy council in the twenty-third year of his age. In 1492, having accompanied his sovereign to France, he was one of the great men who were chiefly instrumental in bringing about the peace of Bologna.* Two years subsequent to this he obtained the wardship and marriage of Elizabeth, the daughter of Edward Grey Viscount L'Isle, sister and coheirress of John Viscount L'Isle, her brother.† Dudley was chosen speaker of the House of Commons, in the Parliament held in 1504;‡ and, in consideration of his great services in this station, the king granted him the stewardship of the rape of Hastings, in the county of Sussex.§ This was among the last favours conferred upon him by his master. That monarch dying in 1509, both Dudley and Empson were sent to the tower, in consequence of the clamour of the people against them, on account of their unjust and illegal oppressions.|| In July the same year, the former of these gentlemen was arraigned and condemned for high treason, before commissioners assembled in Guildhall; ¶ Epsom was likewise tried the following year, and convicted.** These convictions were followed by an act of attainder, passed in Parliament against both,†† but the king was still unwilling to execute them; and Stowe informs us, that it was believed queen Catharine had interposed to save Dudley.‡‡ The clamour of the people, however, continuing to increase, partly on account of the vigorous treatment of their adherents, while they themselves escaped, his majesty found himself ultimately compelled,

* Rymer's *Fœdera*, Vol. XII. p. 490.

† *Each.* 20 Hen. VII.

‡ Lord Bacon's *Hist. of Hen. VII.* in his works, Vol. III. p. 494.

§ *Pat.* 22. Hen. VII. p. 2.

|| Lord Herbert's *History of Henry VIII.* p. 1.

¶ See the petition in Parliament, for the restitution of his son, 3 Henry VIII.

** Holinshed's *Chron.* Vol. II. p. 804. first Ed.

†† Polyd. Verg. *Hist.* Aug. lib. XXVII.

‡‡ Stowe's *Annals*, p. 487.

compelled to sign their death warrant; and accordingly they were both beheaded on Tower hill, on the 18th of August, 1510.*

Concerning the propriety of this execution, in as far as regarded the king, some doubts may justly be entertained. Dudley had unquestionably been guilty of crimes deserving the punishment he met with, but these crimes were perpetrated to gratify the passions of the late monarch, and should therefore have been passed over by his son and successor. The virulence and fury of the mob was but a shallow plea; for men in power ought never to yield to any suggestions but those of justice and equity. During his confinement in prison, Dudley wrote a very extraordinary treatise,† addressed to the king, and intituled "The Tree of the Commonwealth, by Edmund Dudley, Esq. late counsellor to king Henry VII, the same Edmund being at the compiling thereof, prisoner in the Tower, in 1 Henry VIII. The effect of this treatise consisteth in three especial points :

"First, Remembrance of God, and the Faithful of his Holy Church, in the which every Christian prince had need to begin.

"Second, Of some conditions and demeanors necessary in every prince, both for his honour and assuredty of his continuance.

"Thirdly, Of the Tree of Common-wealth, which toucheth people of every degree, of the conditions and demeanors they should be of."

This book, which was probably written with a view to his own pardon and liberation, never reached the king's hands, and therefore could not be instrumental in obtaining the object intended. It is somewhat strange, that though many copies of it were handed about in manuscript, it was never published.‡

Many

* Stowe's Annals, p. 485.

† Holinshed's Chron. p. 798.

‡ Hist. Brit. V.

Many years after the death of the author, the MS. was discovered by Stowe, who transcribed it, for the satisfaction of the then earl of Warwick, who was grandson to Dudley.* For this labour and favour Warwick loaded honest John with *—many thanks and good wishes*. Long after the death of Stowe, the original MS. was purchased by Sir Symonds D'Ewes. It afterwards fell into the hands of that *bibliomaniac* the earl of Oxford. What is now become of it is not exactly known: probably it is still in the same collection. Several copies are to be met with in other libraries.†

ISAAC HAWKINS BROWNE, Esq. Fellow of the Royal Society, and a very ingenious and elegant poet of the last century, was born at Burton upon Trent, on the 21st of January 1705-6; and was the son of the Rev. William Browne, minister of that parish. Mr. William Browne, besides holding the living of Burton, where he chiefly resided, was vicar of Winge, in Buckinghamshire, and a prebendary of Lichfield, which last preferment was given him by the excellent bishop Hough. He was possessed, also, of a small paternal inheritance, which he greatly increased by his marriage with Anne daughter of Isaac Hawkins, Esq. all whose estates at length came to his only grandson and heir at law, the subject of this article. Our author received his grammatical education, first at Lichfield, and then at Westminster, where he was distinguished for the brilliancy of his parts, and the steadiness of his application. The uncommon rapidity with which he passed through the several forms or classes of Westminster School attracted the notice, and soon brought him under the direction of the head master, Dr. Friend, with whom he was a peculiar favorite. Mr. Browne staid above a year in the sixth or head form, with a view of confirming and improving his taste for classical learning

* See Strype's Life of Stowe, prefixed to his edition of the *Survey of London*.

† For some account of Mr. Dudley's son, the earl of Warwick, see before, p. 985.

learning and composition, under so polite a scholar. When he was little more than sixteen years of age, he was removed to Trinity College, Cambridge, of which college his father had been fellow. He remained at the University till he had taken his degree of master of arts; and though, during his residence there, he continued his taste for classical literature, which, through his whole life, was his principal object and pursuit, he nevertheless did not omit the peculiar studies of the place; but applied himself, with vigour and success, to all the branches of mathematical science, and the principles of the Newtonian philosophy. When, in May 1724, king George the First established, at both the universities, a foundation for the study of modern history and languages, with the design of qualifying young men for employments at court and foreign embassies, Mr. Browne was among the earliest of those who were selected to be scholars upon this foundation.*

On the death of that prince, he wrote an university copy of verses, which was the first of his poems that has been printed; and for which he received a very handsome compliment from the Professor of poetry at Cambridge. About the year 1727 Mr. Browne, who had been always intended for the bar, settled at Lincoln's Inn. Here he prosecuted, for several years, with great attention, the study of the law, and acquired in it a considerable degree of professional knowledge, though he never arrived to any eminence in the practice of it, and entirely gave it up long before his death. He was the less solicitous about the practice of his profession, and it was of the less consequence to him, as he was of a fortune adequate to his desires; which, by the happy mean between extravagance and avarice, he neither diminished nor increased. Mr. Browne's application to the law did not prevent his occasionally indulging himself in the exercise of his poetical talents. It was not long after his settlement at Lincoln's Inn, that he wrote

* Mr. Browne alludes to this circumstance, in his poem on the death of the founder George the First.

wrote his poem on *Design and Beauty*, addressed to Mr. Highmore the painter, for whom he had a great friendship and esteem. In this, which is one of the longest of his poems, he shews a true taste, and extensive knowledge of the Platonic philosophy; and pursues through the whole the idea of beauty advanced by that philosophy.

By design is meant, in a large and extensive sense, that power of genius, which enables the real artist to collect together his scattered ideas, to range them in proper order, and to form a regular plan, before he attempts to exhibit any work in architecture, painting, or poetry.* Several other poetical pieces were written by Mr. Browne, during the interval between his fixing at Lincoln's Inn, and his marriage; but one of the most pleasing and popular of his performances, is his "*Pipe of Tobacco*," which is an imitation of Cibber, Ambrose Phillips, Thompson, Young, Pope, and Swift, who were then all living. We need not say that the peculiar manner of these several writers is admirably hit off by our author, and that he hath shewn himself to have possessed an excellent imitative genius. Indeed, nothing but a nice spirit of discrimination, and a happy talent at various composition, could have enabled him to have succeeded so well, as he hath done in the "*Pipe of Tobacco*." The imitation of Ambrose Phillips was not written by our poet, but by an ingenious friend,† the late worthy Dr. John Hoadly, chancellor of the diocese of Winchester, and second son of the bishop. Dr. Hoadley, however, acknowledged, that his little imitation was altered so much for the better by Mr. Browne, that he fairly made it his own.‡

On the 10th February, 1743-4, Mr. Browne married Jane,
daughter

* Preface to Mr. Hawkins Brown's Poems published in 1768.

† Poems, ubi supra.

‡ Perhaps one of the most ingenious and humorous publications of this kind is "*The Rejected Addresses*," lately published by Mr. Smith, author of "*Horace in London*."

daughter of the Rev. Dr. David Trimnell, archdeacon of Leicester, and precentor of Lincoln, and niece to the Right Rev. Dr. Charles Trimnell, bishop of Winchester. Mr. Browne was singularly happy in his union with this lady, who was a woman of great merit, and of a very amiable temper, and who always shewed him the truest attention and regard. He was chosen twice to serve in Parliament; first upon a vacancy in December 1744, and then at the general election in 1748; both times for the borough of Wenlock in Shropshire, near to which was his own estate. His being brought into the House of Commons was principally owing to the interest of William Forester, Esqr. a gentleman of great fortune and ancient family in Shropshire. Mr. Forester recommended Mr. Browne to the electors, from no other motive than the opinion he entertained of his abilities, and the confidence he had in his integrity and principles.

As Mr. Browne had obtained his seat in Parliament without opposition or expense, and without laying himself under obligations to any party, he never made use of it to interested or ambitious purposes. The principles, indeed, in which he had been educated, and which were confirmed by reading and experience, and the good opinion he had conceived of Mr. Pelham's administration, led him usually to support the measures of government; but he never received any favour, nor desired any employment. He saw with great concern the dangers arising from Parliamentary influence, and was determined that no personal consideration should bias his public conduct. The love of his country, and an ardent zeal for its constitution and liberties, formed a distinguishing part of his character. In private conversation Mr. Browne possessed so uncommon a degree of eloquence, that he was the admiration and delight of all who knew him. It must, therefore, have been expected that he would have shone in the House of Commons, as a public speaker. But he had a modesty and delicacy about him, accompanied with a kind of nervous timidity, which prevented

ed him from appearing in that line. His case, in this respect, was similar to that of the third earl of Shaftsbury, Mr. Addison, and other ingenious men. A niceness of classical taste, and a high sense of the accuracy, purity, and elegance of language, are not always favourable to the exertion of oratorical talents.

The man who wishes to distinguish himself, in popular assemblies, ought to lay aside the fear of offending in the little proprieties of style, and should hazard his sentiments with a noble, though perhaps an irregular, boldness. In the year 1754, Mr. Browne published what may be called his great work, his Latin poem "*De Animi Immortalitate*," in two books.

The reception which this poem met with was such as its merit deserved. It immediately excited the applause of the most polite scholars, and the author was complimented upon it by some of the most eminent and ingenious men of the age. Its popularity was so great, that several English translations of it appeared in a little time. The first was by Mr. Hay, author of an *Essay on Deformity*; and other pieces, and the second in blank verse, by Dr. Richard Grey, a learned clergyman in Northamptonshire, well known by his *Memoria Technica*, and his publication on *Scripture Criticism*. A third translation was published, without a name, together with a laboured preface, containing some quotations from Sir John Davies's "*Nosce Teipsum*," which were supposed to be analogous to certain passages in Mr. Browne.*

All these versions made their appearance in the course of a few months; and there was afterwards printed, by an unknown hand, a translation of the first book. Some years after Mr. Browne's death, the "*De Animi Immortalitate*" was again translated by the Rev. Mr. Crawley, a clergyman in Huntingdonshire. A close and literal version of it in prose, was inserted

VOL. XIII.

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in a publication, which appeared in 1766, intituled "*Essays, Moral, Religious, and Miscellaneous.*" But the best translation of all is that by Soame Jenyns, Esq. printed in his *Miscellanies*, and since published in Mr. Browne's poems. These testimonies and attentions paid to our author's principal production are striking evidences of the high sense which was entertained of its merit; and that it deserved these instances of approbation, a perusal of it will oblige us to acknowledge. For, not to mention the usefulness and importance of the subject, every man of taste must feel that the poem is admirable for its perspicuity, precision, and order; and that it unites the philosophical learning and elegance of Cicero with the numbers and much of the poetry of Lucretius and Virgil.

Mr. Browne's public character did not equal his private virtues; but, whether in public or private, he was honest and good. He sat several years in Parliament, and we very often find his name among the committees for private bills, especially in cases where the interests of literature are concerned. Among his numerous friends, whose acquaintance must have conferred credit on the character of any man, was the late Mr. Byrom of Manchester. The incomparable system of Short Hand, invented and taught by him, it gave great pleasure to Mr. Browne to promote on all occasions. He was one of the many distinguished gentlemen who attended the lectures and private instructions of that ingenious and worthy person.*

But

* See "*The Universal English Short Hand; or, The Way of Writing English in the most easy, concise, regular, and beautiful manner, applicable to any other Language. Invented by John Byrom, M. A. F. R. S. and sometime Fellow of Trinity College, Cambridge.*" Published from his manuscripts, in 1767, pref. p. vii. A highly useful and valuable "*Introduction*" to this system has been published by Mr. Molineux, of Macclesfield; and the writer of this volume has published "*A Comparative View of the Two Systems of Short Hand, respectively invented by Mr. Byrom and Dr. Mavor.*" He also recently gave a lecture (perhaps the first on the subject in this metropolis, since the time of Mr. Byrom,) to the members of the Philosophical

But the gentlemen with whom he was most intimate, and his talents for wit and conversation, caused his company to be earnestly sought by many, was Paul Feilde, of *Stansted Bury*, Esq. This was a long and a close friendship.*

Having laboured for a considerable time, under a weak and infirm state of health, he died, at his house in Great Russel Street, Bloomsbury Square, London, on the 4th of February, 1760, in the fifty-fifth year of his age. His son published an elegant edition of his father's poems, in 1768, upon which occasion he received numerous testimonies to their merit, from several bishops, and other learned men of the time.†

The amiable and truly ingenious ISAAC WALTON was born at *Stafford*, in August 1593. He settled in London as a shop-keeper, and had his shop in the Royal *Bourse*, or *Exchange*, Cornhill. In this place, which was much too confined for his business, he continued many years; and then removed to the "north side of Fleet Street, to a house two doors west of the end of Chancery-Lane, and abutting on a messuage,

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known

Philosophical Society of London. The substance of this lecture the reader will find in the *Philosophical Magazine*, for Oct. 1812. It is not generally known that, in the year 1741, an act passed both houses of Parliament, "for securing to John Byrom, Master of Arts, the sole right of publishing, for a certain term of years, the Art and Method of Short-Hand, invented by him." See *Journals of the House of Commons*, 1741-2. On this occasion, the learned and celebrated Dr. Hartley was one of the persons examined by the committee, to prove the allegations of Mr. Byrom's petition. These are facts, which are not otherwise worthy of note, than as they are, if not entirely novel, at least extremely rare, in the history of this invaluable and too much neglected art. Indeed there has not hitherto been published any other system of Stenography, that could have any claims to such notice and protection: for there is not any other method, which can bear the most distant comparison, in point of practical utility, to this, we had almost said perfect, invention. More than nine-tenths of the published systems are impositions or quackery.

* Biog. Brit. Vol. II. p. 662.

† To this edition is prefixed a head of the author, from a painting by Highmore, engraved by Ravenet.

known by the sign of the Harrow :” by which sign the old timber-house, at the south-west corner of Chancery Lane, in Fleet Street, till lately was known.* He married probably about 1632; for in that year he lived in a house in Chancery Lane, a few doors higher up on the left hand than the former, and described by the occupation of a sempster or milliner. His wife was Anne, the daughter of Mr. Thomas Ken, of Furnival’s Inn, and sister of Thomas, afterwards Dr. Ken, bishop of Bath and Wells. In the year 1643, he retired from London and from business, on a small, but competent fortune.

Whilst Mr. Walton resided in London, his favourite recreation was angling; in which art he is said to have excelled almost all men living. Langbaine calls him “the common father of anglers.” His most frequented river for this primitive amusement seems to have been the *Lea*, which has its source above *Ware* in *Hertfordshire*. In 1663 he lost his wife, who lies buried in the Cathedral church of Worcester.

While Mr. Walton lived in the neighbourhood of *St. Dunstan’s in the West*, he had frequent opportunities of attending the ministry of Dr. John Donne,† who was vicar of that church.

* Within one or two doors of this place there is still a shop, well-known for the supply of all sorts of fishing tackle.

† This witty rhyming bishop was a well-known character; but there is one fact in his history which, for the sake of the prudent and just example it affords, can never be too much known. Soon after Donne’s promotion, the envious voice of slander, ever at work against human happiness, spread reports, unfavourable to the Doctor’s loyalty and gratitude to the king, to whom he was under infinite obligation. Upon these reports coming to the ears of the monarch, Donne was sent for, and a fair opportunity was given him, of clearing his character, if innocent, in the royal presence. This he did so clearly and satisfactorily, that the king said, “he was right glad he rested no longer under suspicion.” After he had dismissed Donne, he turned to some of the lords about him, and said: “My doctor is an honest man; and, my lords, I was never better satisfied with an answer, than with that which he hath now made me: and I always rejoice, when I think that by my means he became a divine.” This was altogether an act worthy a Christian

church. To this prelate's sentiments, he became, as he himself expresses it, a convert; and upon the doctor's disease, in 1631, Sir H. Wotton requested Walton to collect materials for his Life, which Sir Henry had undertaken to write. Sir Henry died before he had completed his work, and Walton undertook it himself; and, in 1640, finished and published it, with a collection of the doctor's sermons, in folio.

On the death of Sir Henry, which took place in 1639, Walton was importuned by the king to write his Life also; and it was, accordingly, finished about 1644. In 1655, he published that most pleasing and highly interesting book, for which he will be ever remembered, by all lovers of the art, it is designed to recommend, "The Complete Angler; or, Contemplative Man's Recreation,"* in duodecimo, adorned with some very

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excellent

Christian and a gentleman; and they do not act either the part of Christians or of gentlemen who, in like cases, would not "do likewise." It must ever yield the most pure pleasure to a correct mind, to have afforded to the accused an opportunity, openly and generously, of wiping off the aspersions, to which the most innocent are ever liable. Nor should a friend wait till his accused friend, (whom the pressure of extreme oppression may have crumbed to the dust,) himself seeks his own justification:—the real friend will, like this king, send to the sufferer, and be resolved to hear his own account of the matter; and those who do not thus act are guilty of a breach of Christian and moral duty; for as Seneca wisely observes,

*"Qui statuit aliquid, parte inaudita altera,
Æquum licet statuerit, haud æquus est."*

"He who decides in any case, without hearing the other side of the question, though he may determine justly, is not therefore just;" and yet, alas! how common is this dealing! and how rare the contrary proceeding!

* The circumstance, which first led the writer of these sheets to an acquaintance with this book, is not among the least of many pleasing associations, originating in the same source. This note, may perhaps, meet the eye of one, who will remember what interchanges of mutual friendship and esteem took place, subsequently to that introduction:—who will call to mind

how

excellent cuts of most of the fish mentioned in it. It is not known exactly, who was the artist on this occasion; but it is generally believed to have been Lombart, who is mentioned by Mr. Evelyn in the "*Sculptura*;" and also that the plates were of steel. The friendship which Walton had with Cotton, and also the connection which the latter had with the subsequent editions of the *Complete Angler*, have already been mentioned in our account of Cotton, under *Beresford Hall*.^{*} Walton had not the advantage of a classical education; yet he frequently cites Latin and other learned authors, as Gessner, Camden, Aldrovandus, Rondeltius, and even Albertus Magnus. He of course had made use of such translations as he could meet with; yet some of the authors whom he quotes, we believe, have never been translated.

There has not been a writer who has had occasion to make mention of the art of angling, since Walton's time, that has not referred to *The Complete Angler*, as of undoubted authority on the subject; and it has been read, even as a parlour companion, by men of taste, both at home and abroad.[†]

About two years after the Restoration Walton wrote the *Life of Mr. Richard Hooker*, long known by the honourable, and in many respects deserved, appellation of "*Judicious*."

This

how much was admired the friendship of honest Isaac Walton and the ingenious but unfortunate Cotton:—how much the constancy of that friendship—through the varying scenes of adversity and prosperity:—"through evil report and good report"—was admired and recommended; and these recollections may possibly revive that which ought never to have decayed; and which the writer of this is conscious of never having himself designedly interrupted.

^{*} P. 1002.

[†] A learned and much esteemed friend and correspondent in a letter, dated Jan. 24th 1813, humourously observes, to the author of these sheets, that he has "read that book of fishing, till he is quite hungry," and then exclaims, "How beautifully does it describe the cleanliness of English cookery!" The letter containing this remark is from a worthy Catholic priest of the *Collegio do Principe da Boa sorte Bahia*, in the Brazil.

This life of Hooker appears to have been written with great care, and faithfulness. It is the life of one of the most learned and excellent men of his age;* the author of a book which has placed a large portion of what are usually called religious people, in such a situation as to render it almost criminal in them, to dissent from the church establishment of this country, till they have carefully read it through, and seriously weighed its reasonings.†

In 1670, he published *The Life of Mr. George Herbert*, brother to the celebrated lord Herbert of *Cherbury*, in Shropshire, of whom the reader will find some account in a former portion of these volumes.‡ That part of "*The Complete Angler*," which treats of *fly fishing*, was chiefly communicated by Mr. Thomas Barker, an ingenious and highly facetious person, and a very expert angler.§

In his eighty-third year, a period when, to use his own words, he might have claimed "*a writ of ease*," he undertook the *Life of Bishop Sanderson*. The concluding paragraph of this book has been particularly noticed by Dr. Johnson, as a specimen of nervous sentiment, and pious simplicity. This paragraph informs us, that Walton was then in the eighty-fifth year of his age. Besides these books, for which the memory

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of

* The "*Laws of Ecclesiastical Polity*," will be read and admired for the learning, the profound knowledge of church affairs, and the almost unanswerable reasoning and argumentation, with which the book every where abounds, when the numerous swarms of our angry pamphleteers and cavillers shall be every one of them forgotten. The writer of this, though himself an unwilling dissenter from that form of church government which Hooker's book was written to recommend, is free to confess, that he never takes up "*The Ecclesiastical Polity*," but with pleasure, nor closes the reading of it but with a sigh.

† A new edition of this learned work, a few years ago, issued from the Clarendon press, Cambridge, in a neat and deserving form.

‡ Part I. p. 259-260.

§ See his book called "*Barker's Delight ; or, the Art of Angling*." It was published in 1659.

of Walton will ever be venerated and esteemed, he was somewhat of a poet; but in this department of literature he did not excel. He collected materials for some other lives, but did not live to finish them; yet in his *ninetieth* year he published "*Thealma and Clearchus, a pastoral history, written long since by John Chalkhil, Esq. an acquaintance and friend of Edmund Spenser.*" To this he wrote a preface, containing a character of the author. He lived but a short time after this. He died on the 15th of December, 1683, during the great frost, at Winchester, in the cathedral church of which a large black flat marble stone, with a miserable poetic epitaph, marks the place of his interment.* Such was the life of this excellent man; and such the useful nature of his studies and labours. As a biographer he will always be respected, and as an angler, will never cease to be consulted and referred to. To one of the most pleasing and useful branches of literature, and one of the most primitive of recreations, he devoted a long and valuable life.

The year 1602 gave birth to Dr. JOHN LIGHTFOOT, a learned and industrious divine of the church of England. At an early period of his life he entered of Christ's College, Cambridge, and soon became one of the best orators of the undergraduates in that university. When he had taken his degree of B. A. he removed into Derbyshire, and became assistant in the famous school at *Repton* in that county. Two years after this he took orders, and became curate of *Norton* under *Hales* in Shropshire. At this place he acquired, chiefly through the persuasions of one of his hearers, Sir Rowland Cotton, a knowledge of the Hebrew language, which study he had before too much neglected. From this period he devoted himself, with surprising industry and success, to the pursuits of Rabbinical learning, for which he afterwards became so eminent.

His patron, Sir Rowland Cotton, removing to London, Lightfoot went along with him; but did not stay long there. He afterwards

* See Sir John Hawkins's Life of Walton, and the Gen. Biog. Dict.

afterwards settled at *Stone* in this county. In 1628, he married the daughter of William Crompton, of *Stone Park*, Esq. His restless thirst after Rabbinical learning soon induced him again to remove to London, that he might have the advantage of the public libraries there. He settled with his family at *Hornsey*, from which place he soon published his first work, intitled "*Erubim ; or Miscellanies Christian and Judaical.*"

At this time he was only twenty-seven years of age. His patron, to whom these first-fruits of his studies were dedicated, presented him to the rectory of *Ashley*, in his native county. He now began to consider himself settled for life; but the great and mischievous change which soon took place in the affairs of the church and state called him once more to remove to London; for he was nominated a member of the celebrated assembly of Divines, for settling a new form of ecclesiastical polity. He had a favourable opinion of Presbyterianism; hence this appointment very well accorded with his views and inclinations. He had not been long in London, before he was chosen minister of St. Bartholomew's, behind the Royal Exchange. The divines met in 1643: Lightfoot regularly attended, and made a very conspicuous figure in their debates; but he was too learned and sober a man, as well as too liberal in some of his views, not to oppose some of the irrational and dangerous tenets, which those sapient divines were labouring to establish. The Parliament *tryers*, of whom we have spoken in our account of honest John Goodwin, having in the profundity of their judgement, and by virtue of their inquisitorial powers, ejected Dr. Sparatow from the mastership of Catherine Hall, Cambridge, Lightfoot was put in his place. In this year 1653, he was presented to the living of *Much Munden*, in Hertfordshire. He also preached, in his turn, before the House of Commons. In these discourses he warmly recommended his favourite Presbyterianism; but he was quite as well employed during the whole of this bustling time, in preparing and publishing his "*Harmony*:" yet the abhorrence, and almost dread, of

of erudition, which prevailed in those pseudo-scholarly times, threw many obstacles in his way. In 1653 he was elected vice-chancellor of Cambridge university, having taken the degree of D.D. in 1652. In this office he was faithful and useful. He now engaged with others, in perfecting the Polyglot bible, which the infamous Cromwell took it into his head to patronize.

At the restoration, he had the honour and justice to make a tender of resignation of the mastership of Catherine-Hall to Dr. Sparrow. The ejected doctor, however, refused the offer, and it was given to some one else.

At this season of humiliation, Dr. Lightfoot did not much suffer; for, considering that he had before acted rather from the spirit of the times, than from any party or factious motives, he met with numerous friends. Gilbert Sheldon, the archbishop of Canterbury, in particular, readily and heartily engaged to serve him, though personally unknown to him. He was afterwards appointed one of the assistants at the conference upon the liturgy, held in 1661; but it does not appear that he took any very active part in those violent proceedings. He still continued his labours in perfecting the "*Harmony*," though the expense and difficulty of publishing it put him to great inconvenience. The booksellers did not readily enter into our author's views; though since that time some of them have acquired no trifling profit from the sale of his works; and even before his death, they found it their interest to apply to him to collect and methodize them, in order to re-print the whole. This he engaged to do; but the execution was prevented by his death, which took place Dec. 6, 1675.

That Dr. Lightfoot was profound in Rabbinical learning there can be no doubt; but this did not prevent him from entertaining some whimsical notions, particularly that "the smallest points in the Hebrew text were of Divine institution." His works have often been reprinted; both in detached pieces and in a collective form. They make three volumes, in folio.

WILLIAM

WILLIAM MOUNTFORT, a distinguished actor, and author of a few dramatic pieces, was born in this county, in the year 1659. Very early in life he took to the stage, and acquired considerable celebrity as a mimic. He was dishonoured by the notice of the infamous judge Jefferies, in whose house he resided some time; and by whom he was employed, on some occasions, to throw ridicule on the profession, which Jefferies disgraced. At one time, in particular, in the year 1685, at an entertainment which the chancellor gave to the lord mayor and court of aldermen, Mountfort was employed to amuse the company, by aping the action, gesture, and tone of voice, of the principal lawyers of that day; at the same time not only throwing ridicule on some of the most respectable characters, but abusing and scandalizing the law itself; and that at the instigation of the lord-chancellor, whose duty it was to protect a profession, at which he himself was the head.

But the most remarkable transaction in the life of Mr. Mountfort was that which procured his untimely and cruel death. The narrative is briefly this: A Captain Hill, a person of wicked and debauched life, having formed a design against the honour of Mrs. Bracegirdle, an actress of considerable note, communicated his base purpose to his friend and companion in vice, lord Mohun; and they formed a plan for carrying her off, as she had positively refused to listen to Hill's dishonourable overtures. To accomplish their object they went together to the theatre; but that evening Mrs. Bracegirdle happened not to perform. They learnt, however, where she was engaged to sup. To this place they immediately resorted; and, having engaged a considerable force, and a coach, they waited till she came out of the house, upon which they immediately seized her; but her mother, and the gentleman out of whose house she came, rescued and saved her.

Enraged at this disappointment, these ruffians immediately vowed revenge against Mr. Mountfort, whom they suspected of being a bar to Hill's diabolical designs. This revenge they
openly

openly and loudly expressed in the hearing of Mrs. Bracegirdle and a gentleman, who immediately sent a messenger to inform Mrs. Mountfort of her husband's danger, with their opinion that she should apprize her husband of it, and advise him to return home that night. Unfortunately the messenger could not find Mr. Mountfort. In the mean time lord Mohun and the Captain proceeded through the streets with their drawn swords, till, about midnight, they met with the object of their cruel and unjust revenge. While Mohun accosted him in an apparently friendly manner, and engaged him in conversation, the assassin Hill struck him behind the head with his left hand; and before Mr. Mountfort could recover himself so as to stand on his defence, he was run through the body with the sword which Hill held in his right hand. This was stated by the unfortunate man, to Mr. Bancroft the surgeon, a little before his death. Hill immediately fled; but lord Mohun was seized, and stood his trial. Because it could not be proved, that this wretch of a lord had actually lifted his hand against the man, though he had clearly assisted another to murder, he was acquitted by his peers. This temporary acquittal, however, did not ultimately screen him from the Divine justice of that law which has declared that, "whosoever sheddeth man's blood by man shall his blood be shed;" for he afterwards lost his life in a duel with duke Hamilton; and there was some ground for suspicion, that he fell by some such kind of treachery as he himself had acted towards poor Mr. Mountfort.

This unfortunate actor lost his life in Norfolk Street, in the Strand, in the winter of 1692; and he lies interred in the church yard of St. Clement Danes. The six dramatic pieces, which he left behind him, though possessing merit, are not now much known.*

The Rev. RICHARD MEADOWCROFT, known as an annotator on Milton's *Paradise Regained*, was born in this county, in the year 1697, and was educated at Merton College, Oxford, of which

* Vide "Biographia Dramatica."

which he became a fellow. In 1733, the year after he had published his notes on Milton, he was promoted canon of Worcester, at which place he died in 1769, greatly esteemed by learned men in general. Bishop Newton* speaks of him, as having transmitted to him a sheet of MS. remarks, on the *Paradise Regained*, wherein was happily explained a most difficult passage in *Lycidas*. This passage relates to the words "Bellarus," and "Bayona's hold," and are to be met with in the one hundred and sixtieth line of the poem.

Mr. Meadowcroft was also the author of several small tracts, containing critical remarks on the English poets. He likewise published eleven sermons.†

DR. ROBERT JAMES, so long and so well known for his preparation called "*Fever Powder*," was born at *Kilverston*, in the year 1703. His father was a major in the army, his mother a sister of Sir Robert Clauke. He received his education at John's college, Oxford, where he took the degree of A. B. and afterwards became a licentiate in the Royal College of Physicians.

In 1743 he published the "*Medicinal Dictionary*," in three volumes folio; and shortly afterwards a translation, with a supplement by himself, of "*Ramazzani de morbis artificum*," to which also he prefixed a piece by Frederic Hoffman, upon "*Endemical Distempers*." In 1746 appeared "*The Practice of Physic*," in two volumes 8vo.; in 1760, the treatise "*On Canine Madness*," 8vo. and in 1764, the "*Dispensatory*," also in 8vo. On the 25th of June, 1755, while the king was at Cambridge, James was admitted by Mandamus, to the doctorship of Physic. Three years after this, were published "*A Dissertation upon Fevers*;" "*A Vindication of the Fever Powder*," and "*A Short Treatise on the Disorders of Children*," with a good print of the author. This was the 8th edition of the

* Preface to his lordship's edition of Milton.

† Cooke's Preacher's Assistant, Vol. II. p. 231.

the "Dissertation;" the first having been published in 1751. The "Vindication" was in fact a posthumous publication, the author dying before it was completed, in 1776, while he was employed upon it.

Dr. Johnson, in his Life of Smith, makes an affectionate mention of Dr. James, for whom he had a great regard. It appears also, that Johnson acquired from Dr. James, some knowledge of physic. "My knowledge of physic," says he, "I learnt from Dr. James, whom I helped in writing the proposals for his Dictionary, and also a little in the Dictionary itself." Boswell adds, "I have in vain endeavoured to find out what parts Johnson wrote for Dr. James. Perhaps medical men may."*

Speaking of Dr. James, Johnson on one occasion said, "No man brings more *mind* to his profession than James." This character, from such a judge of mind, must ever stamp the memory of Dr. James with respect.

Dr. James, was somewhat rough and unpolished in his manners, and not a little addicted to the pleasures of the bottle; a failing, at one time, by no means uncommon among physicians. Some whimsical stories are told of him; particularly of his evening prescriptions. He is said at one time to have mistaken his own pulse for that of his patient's, and that at a time, when he was in a state not very capable of discerning the difference; but, finding on comparing the two, that one was quickened by intemperance, he roundly accused the sick person of being in liquor! Possibly this acute physician, might sometimes adopt the sagacious plan of the late Dr. Hunter, who is said to have purposely contrived to become infected with the virus of a certain well-known poison, in order that he might be better able to observe the symptoms and progress of the mischievous disease which that poison superinduces in others:

* Boswell's Life of Johnson, II. p. 385, 8vo. Ed.

others.* However this might be, and whatever might be Dr. James's failings, there can be no doubt of his having been a skilful and experienced physician.

For a long time his *Fever Powder* was violently opposed by the Faculty; an opposition which all secret nostrums ought to experience; but, in this instance, it subsequently appeared, unmerited. Dr. Pearson took great pains in analyzing it, and concluded that "by calcining bone ashes, that is, phosphated lime, with antimony in a certain proportion, and afterwards exposing the mixture to a white heat, a compound may be formed containing the same ingredients, in the same proportion, and containing the same chemical properties."† The London Pharmacopœia now contains a prescription under the title of *Pulvis Antimonialis*, which is intended to answer the same purposes. "It is well known," says Dr. Pearson, "that this powder cannot be prepared by following the directions in the specification in the court of chancery."

It has long been doubtful whether Dr. James was really the inventor of this powder. Dr. Pearson remarks, that "the calcination of antimony and bone ashes produces a powder called *Lile's* and *Schwanberg's* fever powder; a preparation described by *Schroeder* and other chemists 150 years ago,"—"According to the receipt in the possession of Mr. Bromfield, by which this powder was prepared forty-five years ago, and before any medicine was known by the name of James's powder, two pounds of hartshorn shavings must be boiled, to dissolve all the mucilage, and then, being dried, be calcined with one pound of crude antimony, till the smell of sulphur ceases,

* From this anecdote respecting Dr. Hunter probably has arisen a whimsical idea, very prevalent to this day on the continent, that our English physicians are so upright, honourable, and conscientious, as very frequently to come in personal contact with contagion, and thus make experiments on their own bodies, for the humane and patriotic purpose of healing the disorders of their patients.

† Philosoph. Trans. for 1791, p. 367.

ceases, and a light grey powder is produced. The same preparation was given to Mr. Willis, above forty years ago, by Dr. John Baton of the College of Physicians, with the material addition, however, of ordering the calcined mixture to be exposed to a given heat in a close vessel, to render it white."—"*Schroeder* prescribes equal weights of antimony and calcined hartshorn; and *Poterius* and *Michaelis*, as quoted by *Frederic Hoffman*, merely order the calcination of these two substances together (assigning no proportion) in a reverberatory fire for several days." It has been alledged, that Dr. James obtained the receipt for this powder of a German baron, named Schwanberg, or one Baker, to whom Schawnberg had sold it.

However, all this might be, it is certain that Dr. James gave a credit and currency to this valuable powder which it otherwise would probably never have obtained. It is to this day prescribed by the Faculty; and is almost the only secret medicine, or medicine bearing the name of an inventor, which our cautious physicians have introduced into their own practice. It has proved a noble fortune, say the editors of the General Biographical Dictionary, to Dr. James's family.

In the spring of 1763 was born at, or near Stone, the Rev. STEPHEN SHAW, the amiable historian of this county. We regret exceedingly that it is not in our power to give that extended memoir of Mr. Shaw, which his excellent character and peculiar connection with this county naturally claim. The principal facts which our limits allow us to detail, are taken from the Gentleman's Magazine, a publication which Mr. Shaw had no contemptible share in enriching.

He was educated at the school of Repton, near Hartshorn, first under the Rev. Dr. Prior, and latterly under his successor, the Rev. William Bagshaw Stevens, a very ingenious poet and scholar, who died in 1800.* From this accomplished man, for whom he retained an unabated friendship, till his premature death, he early imbibed a warm love of literature.

At

* See Gent. Mag. Vol. LXXI. p. 109.

At the close of October, 1780, he became a resident member of Queen's College, Cambridge. At this period, his first literary predilections were fixed on English poetry, of which he had caught an enthusiastic fondness from his last master. But even this partiality yielded to his propensity for music, in which his performance on the violin occupied a large portion of his time, and had already attained considerable excellence.

In due time Mr. Shaw took his degree of B. A. was elected to a Fellowship, and went into orders. In this progress few were the impedimenta that occurred to retard it. His unimpeachable morals, his good temper, his freedom from all envy, malice, intrigue, and guile; his philanthropy and fondness for society, were qualities not likely to raise enemies, or clog his way with opposition.

At what period Mr. Shaw left college we are not informed; but we learn, that within two or three years after that event, he was engaged as tutor to the present celebrated Sir Francis Burdett, with whom, in the summer of 1787, he made a tour to the Highlands of Scotland. The diary which he kept during this tour furnished him with notes for his first topographical work, which, fortunately for his literary credit, he published anonymously.

In 1788 he made a tour to the west of England; and published an account of it, with his name. His admission to the Reading-room of the British Museum gave him so much knowledge of topography and genealogy; and the vast stores of materials of this kind there deposited, led him, in conjunction with an intelligent friend, to commence a valuable periodical publication, which they intitled, *The Topographer*. This was in the spring of 1789. We are informed that the hasty and indigested plan and arrangement of this work, should not be laid to the charge of Mr. Shaw, but to the "inconsiderate and impetuous" mind of his coadjutor, whom a domestic affliction had induced to seek for something to engage his atten-

tion, and who "did not give himself time to anticipate the langour and avocations which followed." It is more than probable that this coadjutor of Mr. Shaw's, is the same person who communicates the information. It is, however, more frank and modest than just: The Topographer, with all its faults, is a publication of great value, and merit. It has collected a mass of original materials, relating to the topography, history, and antiquities of various parts of this county, which, but for it, had never seen the light. Such an engagement was well calculated to divert the gloom of melancholy, from the mind of Mr. Shaw's coadjutor. The modesty of his remarks,* on the merit due to his labours; and the apology which he makes for the cause of their defects, every generous reader will duly appreciate. The editor of this volume too well knows, how to sympathize with domestic sorrow; and how much studies like these have a tendency to banish, for a time, the gloom of affliction, and sooth irritations arising from oppression and injustice, of which he has had to encounter no trifling share, during the latter portions of his present labours.

The Topographer extended to four handsome octavo volumes, and then ceased, probably for want of encouragement. In the summer of 1791 Mr. Shaw retired to his father's house at *Hartshorn*. Here still amusing himself with Topographical researches, he soon afterwards, during his frequent visits into *Staffordshire*, conceived the idea of undertaking the History of the County. This was a bold scheme; but he persisted in it; and his mild and inoffensive manners, his known industry and integrity, shortly procured him a large and valuable mass of materials. Instead of confining himself merely to the dry investigation of antiquarian lore, he took into the wide scope of his plan, whatever subjects the title of his work could comprehend. Natural history, agriculture, scenery, manufactures, and arts, all excited his curiosity, and flattered the various

* *Gent. Mag.* 1803, p. 10.

rious tastes and views of those, by whom the acquisition of his materials was facilitated.

His scheme, however, had probably fallen to the ground, had he not, by assiduous enquiries, "discovered and obtained the vast treasure of MSS. written and collected by Dr. Wilkes for a similar undertaking." These collections it was thought had been long lost or destroyed; and we are informed, that some malicious attempts were made, by the assertion of wilful falsehoods, to stifle Mr. Shaw's pursuits of them. He was, however, convinced that they still existed, and succeeded to his wishes in the pursuit.

He was four years in augmenting and digesting his collections; and about 1796 began to print the first volume, which was published two years afterwards. About three years after this, was published the first part of the second. At this time he had succeeded his father in the living of *Hartshorn*; but a bilious habit rendered him perpetually subject to slow fevers. After various intermissions of these complaints, early in the spring of 1802, he found himself unfit for his usual occupations. About midsummer it was deemed advisable for him to pay a visit to the Kentish coast, all application to books having been previously prohibited. The autumn was agreeably spent at *Sandgate*, near *Hythe*; and he so far recovered as to join some friends for a few days, in making an expedition to *Boulogne*. In October, however, his disorder suddenly returned, with greater violence than before. He struggled ten days; and was then removed to London for the convenience of better advice; but he died very soon after his arrival, in the forty-first year of his age, deeply and sincerely lamented by his friends, and the lovers of literature in general.

Hitherto his "vast treasures of MSS. drawings, and engraved plates," designed for the completion of his History of Staffordshire, have been in the hands of his friends; and several enquiries, in the Gentleman's Magazine, and other places, have been from time to time made respecting them; but

whether a person, properly qualified to supply this lamented deficiency, has yet been found, we have not been able to ascertain. In the mean time, a most extravagant price is demanded by the bookseller, for the portions of the book already published. It is ill-written, and not always accurate in its statements; but is, nevertheless, one of the most valuable and splendid additions to our County Histories, that has appeared these fifty years.

In closing this brief memoir of Mr. Shaw, there is one reflection that operates powerfully on our minds; it arises from the consideration of Mr. Shaw's merit, for useful industry as an author, in addition to a faithful discharge of his duty as a minister of religion. In this he was exemplary.

At such a very early period of her life was the well-known MISS ANNA SEWARD removed from *Eyam*, in Derbyshire, to *Lichfield*, where she resided the greatest part of her life, that she is now generally esteemed one of the "worthies" of this county. Miss Seward was the daughter of the Rev. Thomas Seward, rector of *Eyam*, prebendary of *Salisbury*, and canon residentiary of *Lichfield*. She early distinguished herself as a most excellent reader, and as possessing shining talents for conversation. Her first known poetical production was "An Elegy on Captain Cook." In 1780 she wrote a "Monody on her gallant and amiable friend, Major André," whom those psuedo-philanthropists, libertines in religion, and adventurers in commerce, the American Democrats, murdered as a spy! She also wrote "Louisa," a poetical novel, a "Life of Dr. Darwin," and various other works of a minor character, chiefly poetical. Her "Letters" lately published by Walter Scott, have been much read. They are on many accounts curious and interesting; but they bear evident marks of having been written with a view to their future publication; hence they are in a great degree deficient in that ease and playfulness which constitute the life and spirit of good epistolary writing. Among the number of her very extensive correspondents, the author of



SANDWELL HALL,
Staffordshire.
Seat of Lord Darlington.

London: Published by T. Agnew & Sons, Piccadilly, Jan. 1846.

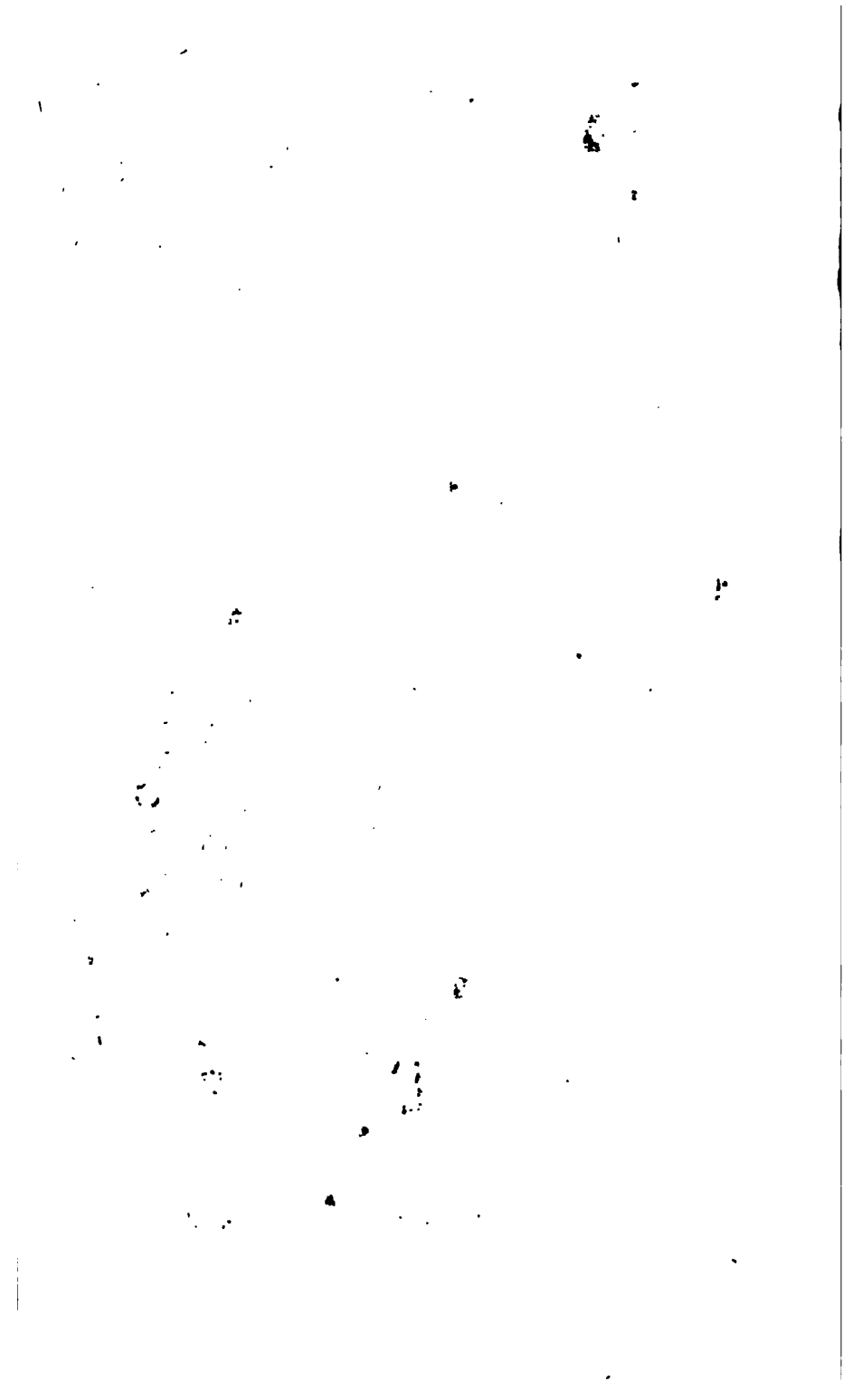


this is pleased to recognize his old friend, the "Peak Minstrel," whose modest merit, and very excellent talents, have more than once edified and pleased him. But there are virtues which require the aid of riches and patronage to bring them to light; and, as the world is now constituted, the misfortunes of the humble are apt to be reckoned to the charge of errors, and to be treated, not as unavoidable calamities to be lamented, but as crimes to be punished. Miss Seward died in the sixty-sixth year of her age, at the episcopal palace, Lichfield, on the 25th of March, 1807.

* * * * *

Through many a weary toil—through anxieties of no ordinary cast, and difficulties, which even most professional authors have but seldom to encounter, the writer of this volume now concludes his labours. If years devoted to reading and study, preparatory to and connected with an engagement of which this volume, large as it is, forms but a small portion—if expenses far beyond the subsequent remuneration, and involving a train of distressing circumstances wide in their operation and deep in their effects—if these may tend to prove the author's sincere desire to merit his reader's approbation; or, if they shall soften the severity of criticism, then will the author reflect on those labours and those sufferings with some degree of satisfaction, inasmuch as they shall have been the means of, at least, alleviating that pain, which a consciousness of his numerous defects and oversights have excited.

†



LIST

OF THE PRINCIPAL
BOOKS, MAPS, PLANS, AND VIEWS,
THAT HAVE BEEN PUBLISHED IN

*Illustration of the History, Topography, Antiquities,
&c. of the
COUNTY OF SALOP.*

OF this county there has never yet been a complete history ; nor does it appear that any very material collections have been made with a view to the supplying of this deficiency. The collections of Mr. Lloyd and a few others are but imperfect and limited in their nature ; though valuable as far as they have extended. The only published accounts of any importance at all, are the following :

"The Worthines of Wales." A Poem, by Thomas Churchyard, 1587, reprinted 1776, 12mo.

"Shrewsbury taken—A copie of Sir William Brereton's letter to the parliament, and the copie of a letter from the Committee of Shropshire. With a full relation of the manner of the taking of Shrewsbury, by Colonel Mytton and Colonel Bowyer, with Sir William Brereton's and Colonel Mitton's forces, on Saturday last Feb. 22, and the particulars of that great victory against P. Maurice's forces there ; also a list of the chief prisoners names, and what was taken in the garrison 1645," 4to.

An original letter from the Duke of York, father of Edward 4th. to the Bailiffs of Shrewsbury, desiring their assistance against the Duke of Somerset, is in the Archives of the Corporation, as is an acknowledgment from Charles 1st. to the Mayor and head School Master, for the use of 600*l*. which they granted him out of the school chest, also the original grant of Sutton to Shrewsbury abbey, by Pandulph, sheriff of Salop, t. conq.

"Rules and Orders for the government of the Salop Infirmary, 1746." 8vo.

"Shrewsbury Quarry, &c. a Poem. By Henry Jones, author of, The Earl of Essex, Kew Gardens, Isle of Wight, the Arcana, &c. Shrewsb. 1769." 8vo.

M. S. Harl. 6693 contains the Charter, Statutes, &c. of the hospital founded at Clonn 5 Jac. 1. by Henry Howard, Earl of Northampton.

thampton. Printed at the end of the 4th volume of Leland's Collectanea 1770, p. 334.

"A true relation of the murders committed in the parish of Clunne, in the county of Salop, by Enoch ap Evan, upon the bodies of his Mother, and Brother, with the causes moving him thereunto. Wherein is examined and refuted, a certain book written upon the subject, by P. Studley, intituled, The Looking Glass of Schisme. By Richard More, Esq. Printed by order of a committee of the honorable House of Commons, now assembled in Parliament." Lond. 1641.

"The lamentable ruines of the Towne of Shuffnal, alias Idsall, in Shropshire, by fire; with the most rare and wonderful burning of the parish church standing on the other side of a water, and the miraculous preservation of certaine houses which stood close by the saide church: set forth by Edw. Mullard, Parson of Idsall, alias Vicar. Lond. 1591." 4to.

"Advice to the Inhabitants of Wern, in Salop, on the fire there. By Andrew Parsons, 1677." 8vo.

"An alarme for Sinners; containing the confession, prayers, letters, and last words of Robert Koulkes, late minister of Stanton Lacy, in the county of Salop; who was tryed, (for the murder of a bastard child by his own maid,) convicted, and sentenced, at the sessions in the Old Bayly, London Jan. 16, 1678-9, and executed the 31st following; with an account of his life. Published from the original, written with his own hand, during his reprieve, and sent by him at his death to Dr. Lloyd, Dean of Bangor. Lond. 1679." 4to.

"The Charter of the Corporation of Walsall: with an account of the estates thereto belonging. To which is added, a list of the donations and benefactions, to the town and foreign of Walsall and Blawich. Wolverhampton, 1774." 12mo.

"Leases for 21. years to be granted of an estate, capable of such improvement, that the Lessees will be thereby entitled to the gain of 600l. for the payment of one. Printed in the year 1727." 8vo. relates to the manor and parish of Church Preen, between Shrewsbury and Wenlock, on which were a salt spring and iron-works, supposed capable of great improvement.

"Boscobel, ou abrégé de ce qui cest passé dans la retraite memorable de sa Maj. Britannique après la bataille d' Worcester le 3. Septembre 1651. Traduite de l'Anglois. Rouen 1676." 12mo. Catalogue the Bookseller, dedicates it to Lord Hatton; the King's-head and Boscobel house are in this translation. Wood says this narrative was translated also into Portuguese. Ath. Ox. II. 73.

"A description of the Leasowes, the seat of the late Mr. Shenstone, by W. Dodsley, is inserted in Mr. Shenstone's works, vol. II. p. 333, with a plan. Poetical descriptions in Woodhouse's Poems, 1764. 4to. and in J. Giles' "Miscellaneous poems on various subjects and occasions, revised and corrected by Mr. Shenstone himself."

As the sweating sickness first broke out at Shrewsbury, the accounts of it may properly be ranked under this county.

"De

LIST OF BOOKS, &c.

"De novo hartenusque Germanis inaudito morbo *Depressus*, hoc est sudatoria febris, quem vulgo sudorem Britannicum vocant, Generosi Hermanni a nuenare comitis, prapositioni Colonien. Simonisque Riquini medicæ rei expertissimi iudicium doctissimum duabus epistolis contentum. Colon. 1529." 4to.

"A boke or counsell against the disease commonly called the sweat, or sweating-sickness, made by John Caius, doctor in phisicke. Lond. 1552." 12mo.

"Johannis Caii Britanni de ephemera Britannica liber unus, summa cura recognitus. Levan. 1556." 8vo. "Lond. 1721." 8vo.

"Lord Bacon's relation of the sweating-sickness, examined by Henry Stubbe, of Warwick, 1671." 4to.

Taylor, the Water Poet, wrote "The old, old, very old man; or the age and long life of Thomas Par the son of John Par, of Winnington in the Parish of Alberbury, in the County of Salop; who was borne in the reign of K. Edward 4 in the yeare 1483, being aged 152 yeares, and odd monethes; and departed this life at Westminster, November 13, 1635, and is now buried in the Abbey at Westminster. His manner of life and conversation in so long a pilgrimage; his marriages and his bringing up to London about the end of September last, 1635. Whereunto is added a postscript, shewing the many remarkable accidents that hapned in the life of this old man. London, 1635." 4to. reprinted 1703 in the same size, and since in the Harleian Miscellany, vi. p. 66, and for T. Cooper, quarto, undated, price one shilling, with variations in the title, and said to be "*done* from the edition printed in his life time." The first edition has a wooden print of him, sitting in a chair, in a black cloak, with a bolster behind him; his eyes half open, copied from one by C. V. Dalen.* Peck collected some further particulars of him;† and in the Philosophical Transactions,‡ and also in the edition of Harvey's Works, published by the college of Physicians, 4to. 1766, is "Anatomia Thomæ Parri post annos 152, menses novem ætos demortui a G. Harveio aliis regis medicis adstantibus habita," translated and printed, Gent. Mag. 1769, page 9.

"A medical and experimental History and analysis of the *Hanley* spa, saline, purging, and chalybeate waters, near Shrewsbury, &c. by D. W. Linden, M. D. 1768, 8vo."

Mr. Gough § has enumerated nearly every thing, that has been communicated to the Royal Society, and also many things laid before the Society of Antiquaries, relative to this county.

"Plan

* There are portraits of him in the Ashmolean Museum, and at Belvoir Castle. Luke Vosterman engraved a print of him. Ames mentions another, by G. White, and one of young Parr, supposed a son of the former, by the same master. Granger's Biog. Hist. Eng. Vol. I. p. 560—566.

† *Desiderata Curiosa*, Book XIV. p. 16, and a note from a MS. Chronicle of Mr. Harrison's, painter in Norfolk. App. to his Life of Cromwel, No XI.

‡ Vol. III. p. 286.

§ British Topography, Vol. II. p. 182, 183.

LIST OF BOOKS, &c.

"Plan of the most remarkable effects of the earthquake, which happened the 17th of May, 1773, at the *Birches*, in the Parish of *Bildwas*, and near Colebrook Dale, in the county of Salop, upon the estate of Walter Acton Mosely, Esq. surveyed and drawn by George Young," with a half sheet of Letter Press.

There is another and much more detailed account at the end of a Sermon, preached on the occasion, by the Rev. John Fletcher, vicar of Madeley, 1773, 12mo.

"A Relation of the taking of the city and castle of Shrewsbury, with the list of the names of those who were taken prisoners, 1644," 4to.

"The History and Antiquities of Shreswbury, from its first foundation to the present time; containing a recital of occurrences and remarkable events, for above twelve hundred years; with an Appendix, containing several particulars relative to castles, monasteries, &c. in Shropshire. By T. Phillips, Shrewsbury, 1779." This is a thin quarto volume; and its value is entirely superseded by the following little work, intituled,

"Some Account of the Ancient and Present state of Shrewsbury," 1808. This is a very thick volume in small 8vo. and though the learned author has modestly withheld his name, it is now well known to be the production of the Rev. Hugh Owen of Shrewsbury.

"A Bill of Mortality for Shrewsbury, by John Leigh, 1751, No. 3. 1754, No. 5."

"A Dedication of an answer to a message from the commissioners of Maisemore Bridge, unentertaining, and not concerning any person but the said commissioners, and them only as tending to justify the character of a quondam commissioner. London, 1780." 4to.

"Observations on the conduct of the commissioners of Maisemore-bridge, occasioned by a late answer to a message from them to John Pitt, Esq. by a commissioner. London, 1779." 4to.

"Corrections and amendments of the answer to the commissioners of Maisemore-bridge, candidly communicated by the very learned and ingenious authors of, and commentators on the observations on the conduct of the said commissioners. To be delivered gratis to the holders of the said answer, by Mutloy and Evans in Gloucester."

"Two great Victories, one by the earl of Denbigh at Oswestry, the other by Colonel Mitton, 1644," 4to.

"A General View of the Agriculture of Shropshire; with Observations. Drawn up for the consideration of the board of Agriculture, and internal improvement. By Joseph Plymley, M. A. Archdeacon of Salop, in the Diocese of Hereford, and honorary member of the Board," 1803," 8vo.

"The County Annual Register," Vol. I. Part. II. contains 1 A "Chronicle," of events in this county, during the year, 1809. 2. "Mort Report of Coleham Cotton Manufactory, Shrewsbury. Proprietors,

LIST OF BOOKS, &c.

Proprietors, C. & S. Hailbert. 3. An account of some "Sepulchral Remains at *Burcot*, in this county." 4. "Biography," of Dr. Thomas Beddoes, and Mr. John Ireland. 5. Some account of "Sir Charles Corbet, Bart. presumed heir to the estates of the Corbet's at Longour, in the county of Salop, and *Leighton*, in the county of Montgomery."* This is a curious and interesting article; but not in every particular quite correct.† 6. A tabular view of the "Political Economy" of this county.

Volume the Second of this Work, called "The Imperial and County Annual Register, &c. for 1810," contains, very little matter of interest.

"Journal of a Tour in North Wales and Part of Shropshire. By Arthur Aikin. 1797," small 8vo.‡

"A Sketch of the Mineralogy of Shropshire," in Dr. Townson's "Tracts and Observations in Natural History and Philosophy, 1799," 8vo.

"An Historical Account of Ludlow Castle, the ancient palace of the Princes of Wales, and supreme court of Judicature of the President and Council of the Welsh Marches. Compiled from original Manuscripts, &c. &c. With an Appendix. By W. Hedges, 1807," 8vo.

"The Ludlow Guide, comprising an Historical Account of the Castle and Town, with a Survey of the various Seats, Views, &c. in that neighbourhood, worthy the attention of the stranger and traveller." This goes by the name of "Price's Ludlow Guide." 12mo.

"Companion to the Leasowes, &c. 1780."

"Description of Hawkestone, by — Rodenhurst."

"Some Account of the Shrewsbury House of Industry; its establishment, regulations, and bye-Laws; with hints to those who may have similar institutions in view. Fifth edition, to which is now added a large Introduction, containing general observations on the present state of the poor, and the defective system of the poor's laws. By I. Wood, 1800," 8vo.

Mr. Evans's "Tour through North Wales," contains some matters relative to this county; particularly a long account of the Lord's Marchers.

Mr. D. Parkes, master of a highly respectable Academy at Shrewsbury, and a true lover of antiquities, has enriched the Gentleman's Magazine with numerous drawings, accompanied with accurate descriptions, of various places in this county.

Mr.

* A recent legal decision, has secured to the worthy family of Archdeacon Corbet, (late Plymley) these estates.

† Information derived from Mr. Plymley, Junr.

‡ Mr. Aikin has been long engaged in preparing "A Mineralogical Map or Survey of this County." His paper on this subject in the Transactions of the Geological Society, is curious and interesting.

LIST OF BOOKS, &c.

Mr. Gough has enumerated most of the places noticed in that invaluable publication up to the year 1780. ...

MAPS, PLANS, PRINTS, AND VIEWS.

Among the seals engraved by Dr. Rawlinson, 1751, is that of the treasurer of Shrewsbury, a monk praying *before** St. Peter.

The seal of the Corporation is a plan of the Town; and chiefly of the Bridge. It forms the Vignette to Mr. Owen's Account of Shrewsbury.

A plan of the town by Rocque, was engraved by R. Parr, 1746, with views of the market-house, free school, and Castle.

A large S. W. view of the Town, an E. one of the Abbey, and an N. W. view of the Castle, by Buck, 1731.

Four prospective views of Shrewsbury by John Bowen, viz. from Cotton-hill, from Kingsland-bank, E. from the Abbey Steeple, and from the Money-green, engraved by Vanderghucht.

S. prospect of Edward 6th his free grammar-school in Shrewsbury. R. Greene del. and sculp. 1739, which Mr. Gough calls a miserable etching.

Plan and elevation of the new bridge over the Severn.

Joseph Smith engraved a W. prospect of the Castle, 1719. Two prospects and the Ichnography make pl. IV. and V. of Stukeley's Itinerary; vol. I. the last copied by Mr. Grose.

Sutton Nicholls engraved a S. W. prospect of the town and castle.

N. W. view of the Castle, by Buck.

A prospect of Whitchurch, by J. Downes; engraved by And. Johnston.

Hollar engraved on half a sheet Boscobel-house, and White-Ladies, the retreat of Charles II. from the battle of Worcester.

A View of the upper-walls at Coalbrook Dale, designed and published by G. Perry and T. Smith, and engraved by Vivares: also a S. W. prospect of this dale and the adjacent country, 1758; with a table of subscribers and an explanation.

The Iron Bridge in this dale; has been engraved in various ways. The first was published by subscription.

East

* Mr. Gough says, praying to St. Peter. This very common mode of expressing the veneration which Roman Catholics pay to departed saints, should be discouraged, inasmuch as it is calculated to convey an erroneous idea of their worship, and to keep alive an unjust prejudice against them. They do not pray to saints as to the Deity; nor do they pray to images in any sense. They never did so.

LIST OF BOOKS, &c

East View of Halesowen Abbey, by Buck. It was also engraved by Sparrow, after B. Green, for Mr. Grose, 1774.

There is a S. E. prospect of *Halesowen Church*, by James Green, a youth of seventeen, dedicated to St Thomas Lyttleton, the patron.

S. W. views of *Wenlock* and *Bildewas*, and W. of *Lilleshull Abbies*, by Buck.

Wenlock Abbey, Grose and Sparrow, 1774.

Bildewas Abbey was engraved by R. Godfrey, after Grose, 1772.

Messrs. Buck have likewise engraved N. W. *Haughmond Priory*, and the following Castles, in 1731: *E. Tong*, *S. W. Stoke*, *S. Acton*, *Burnell*, and *E. Hopton*.

N. View of the Church in the *Battlefield*, near *Shrewsbury*, drawn by James Bowen, Salop, engraved by F. Perry.

View of the *Wrekin Hill*, from *Birchtree Bank*, at *Ercall*, by Castelain, 1748.

Basire engraved for the Society of Antiquaries, 1763; a round shield, a foot diameter, found a foot under ground, within the area of the camp at *Hendinas*, near *Oswestry*, together with trumpets found in Ireland, and other curiosities.

A View of part of *Ludlow Castle*, by William Hodges, engraved by F. Green and F. Jukes, 1778.

Saxtons Map without the Hundreds is dated 1577. Speed's, 1610, has supplied this defect, and added a Plan of *Shrewsbury*, together with the arms of the earls of *Shrewsbury*, "and other memorable things."

A Map of *Shropshire*, by Bas. Wood. De *White Abbey*, engraved by Cole, in four sheets, with roads and distances, and arms at the sides. The names of the Market-Towns are in parallelograms; other places names are all in rounds, and the gentlemen's seats are drawn at large. At the top are the arms of lord Newport, earl of Bradford, to whom the map is dedicated.

A Survey of this County in four sheets, was engraved by Rocque, 1752.

Another Map by Bowen.

Mr. Baugh has published a nine-sheet Survey of this County.

"Select Views of the Antiquities of *Shropshire*," by — Pearson, with short letter-press descriptions.

SUMMARY OF THE POPULATION OF SALOP,
As published by Authority of Parliament in 1811.

Hundreds, &c.	Houses.	PERSONS.		OCCUPATIONS.		Total of Persons.
		Males.	Females.	Families employed in Agriculture.	In Trade and Manufacture.	
Bradford, North.....	4257	10872	11598	2169	1378	22470
South.....	5059	15560	15779	1831	3557	31339
Brimstey	3820	9659	9785	1491	2172	19444
Chirbury	616	1733	1645	432	186	3378
Condover	959	2808	2774	719	230	5582
Ford.....	1081	3109	3084	798	311	6193
Munslow	1864	4656	4714	1402	319	9370
Oswestry	3106	7414	7971	1693	1062	15385
Overs	467	1344	1283	356	124	2627
Pinchill.....	2052	5371	5569	1318	743	10940
Purslow.....	1803	4984	4986	1230	383	9970
Stottesden.....	2341	5779	5976	1331	630	11755
Borough of Bridge- north.....	929	2006	2380	81	870	4386
Borough of Ludlow..	877	1810	2340	14	246	4150
Borough and Li- berties of Shrews- bury.....	3611	8374	10169	981	2516	18543
Town and Liber- ties of Wenlock. }	3724	8402	8403	817	2016	16805
Local Militia.....		1961				1961
Totals.....	36854	95842	98456	16993	16744	294298

A LIST

OF THE PRINCIPAL

BOOKS, MAPS, PLANS, AND VIEWS,

THAT HAVE BEEN PUBLISHED IN

*Illustration of the History, Topography, Antiquities,
&c. of the
COUNTY OF SOMERSET.*

“A Complete History of Somersetshire. Containing, 1. A Geographical Description of the County, in alphabetical order. 2. The Natural History, viz. its produce, air, soil, rare plants, &c.* 3. The Ecclesiastical History, containing an account of the Bishops of the two Sees, Bath and Wells, and Bristol; together with a brief Description of the Monasteries, Martyrs, &c. 4. The Antiquities. 5. An Account of the Gentleman's Seats. 6. The Lives of famous Men of the County. 7. The sufferings of the Clergy in the rebellious times, which began in 1642. 8. A Table of the names of all the towns, villages, &c. with the value of the Livings. 9. The Charity Schools in the County. To which is added a Scheme of all the Market Towns, &c. with their distances from London and from each other. Sherborn. Printed in the year 1742.” Folio.*

“The County of Somerset divided into several classes, for the present settling of the Presbyterial government, 1648.” 4to.

“An Essay towards a Description of the city of BATH. In two parts. Wherein its Antiquity is ascertained; its situation, mineral waters, and British Works, described; the ancient works in its neighbourhood, the gods, places of worship, religion, and learning of the Britons, occasionally considered: the rise of the British Druids demonstrated; the devastations committed by the Romans at Bath; their encamping on the hot-waters, and their turning their camp into a city, fully set forth; and the works of the Saxons and their successors briefly related. Illustrated with 13 octavo plates, engraved by Mr. Pine. By John Wood, architect. Bath, 1742.”

The 2nd. Part, printed 1743, treats of the public Buildings, streets, &c. which are particularly described, and illustrated with a Plan of Queen's

* This pompous book is, after all, only a re-print from the old Magna Britannia; and not even all that is there given. Gough's Brit. Top. II. p. 189.

LIST OF BOOKS, &c.

Queen's Square. Both parts were republished, with the enlarged title of "An Essay towards a Description of Bath, in four parts; wherein the Antiquity of the City, as well as the reality and eminence of its founder; the magnitude of it, in its antient, middle, and modern state; the names it has borne; its situation, soil, mineral waters, and physical plants; the general form and size of its body; the shape of its detached parts; its British works, and the Grecian ornaments with which they were adorned; its devastations and restorations, in the days of the Britons, Romans, Saxons, Danes, and Normans; its additional buildings down to the end of the year 1748; its baths, conduits, hospitals, places of worship, court of justice, and other public edifices; its gates, throngs, bridges, lanes, alleys, terrace-walks, and streets; its inferior courts, and its open areas of a superiour kind, are respectively treated of: the gods, places of worship, religion, and learning of the antient Britons occasionally considered: and the limits of the city in its present state; its divisions, subdivisions, laws, government, customs, trade, and amusements, severally pointed out. Illustrated with the figure of king Bladud, the first founder of the city, as described by the orator Himerius under the name of Abaris: together with proper plans and elevations from twenty-two copper plates. By John Wood, architect. The second edition corrected and enlarged. Lond. 1749." 8vo. In two Volumes. A third edition, London, 1765, 8vo. in two volumes.

"Julii Vitalis epitaphium cum notis criticis, explicationeque V. C. Hen. Dodwelli Goetzium, de Puteolana et Baiana inscriptionibus, epistola. Iscæ Dammionorum, 1711." 8vo.*

The Bath Waters have been celebrated from the earliest periods of our history; and have been described in numerous detached as well as miscellaneous publications; but the first physical examination of them, according to Mr. Gough, was

"A Booke of the natures and properties, as well of the bathes in England, as of other bathes in Germanye and Italye, very necessarye for all syck persones, that cannot be healed without the helpe of natural bathes; gathered by William Turnor, doctor in physick. Imprinted at Collen by Arnold Birckman, in the yeare of our Lorde 1562." Fol. A 2nd. Ed. "lately oversene and enlarged. Collen 1568." folio.

"The bathes of Bathes ayde: wonderfull and most excellent, agaynst very many sicknesses, approved by authorities, confirmed by reason, and dayly tried by experience: with the antiquitie, commoditie, propertie, knowledge, use, aphorismes, diet, medicine, and other thinges thereto be considered and observed. Compendiously compiled by John Jones, phisition, anno salutis 1572, at Asple Hall besyds Nottingham. Printed at London for William Jones, 13 Maill."

"The baths of Bathe: or a necessary compendious treatise concerning the nature, use, and efficacie of those famous hot waters. Published

• This famous inscription, at the east end of the church, has employed the learning and pens of some of our best antiquaries. Gough.

LIST OF BOOKS, &c.

Published for the benefit of all such as yearly for their health resort to those baths, with an advertisement of the great utility that cometh to man's body, by the taking of physick in the spring, inferred upon a question moved, concerning the frequency of sicknesses and death of people more in that season than in any other. Whereunto is also annexed a censure, concerning the water of St. Vincent's rocks, neer Bristoll, which is in great request and use against the stone. By Tho. Venner, Dr. of physick in Bathe." London, 1627-1637, 4to. with his portrait; annexed to his *Via recta ad vitam longam*. 1622, 1637, 1650." 4to, and since reprinted in the *Harl. Misc.* Vol. II. p. 295.

"*Thermæ redivivæ: the city of Bath described: with some observations on those sovereign waters, both as to the bathing in, and drinking of them, now so much in use; by Henry Chapman, Gent.* Lond. 1673." 4to.

"*Bathoniensium et Aquigranensium thermarum comparatio variis adjunctis illustrata. R. P. epistola ad illustrissimum virum Rogerum Castlemaini comitem.* Lond. 1676," 12mo."*

"*A Quære concerning drinking Bath water at Bath resolved; by Dr. Guidot, London, 1675,*" 8vo. This author also published several other large treatises on the same subject: particularly "*A Letter to Sir Edward Greaves, 1674,*" 4to. "*A Discourse of Bathe, and the Hot Waters there, &c. 1676,*" 8vo. "*De thermis Britannicis tractus, &c. Lond. 1691,*" 4to. "*The Register of Bath, &c. 1694,*" 12mo. "*An Apology for the Bath, 1708,*" 8vo.†

"*A Collection of Treatises relating to the City and Waters of Bath, 1725.*" Printed by Leake, in 8vo.

"*Bath Memoirs, &c. by R. Pierce, Dr. in physick, and fellow of the college of physicians in London, a constant inhabitant in Bath, from the year 1653, to this present year 1697. Bristol, 1697,*" 12mo. with a plan of Bath, drawn by Joseph Gillmore. Republished, with a new title, 1713, 8vo.

"*A practical Dissertation on Bath Waters, &c. By William Oliver, M. D. and F. R. S. London, 1716, 1719.*" 12mo. To succeeding editions was added a relation of an extraordinary sleepy person at *Tinsbury*, near Bath. The fourth edition of Dr. Oliver's *Treatise on Fevers, 1747.*

"*An Essay of the true nature and due method of treating the Gout, &c. &c. By George Cheyne, M. D. and F. R. S. Lond. 1725. Seventh Edition.*"

VOL. XIII.

H h h h

"Of

• The author of this was Robert Pugh, a native of Penryn, in Caernarvonshire, confessor to Henrietta Maria, queen mother of England. He died in Newgate, where he was confined upon Oates's Plot. *Wood's Athenæ Oxon.* apud Gough, *Brit. Top.* II. p. 197. See also *The Diary of Downy College.* For a very just character of him see *Dod's Church History of England*, Vol. III. p. 289.

† See their titles at length in Gough.

LIST OF BOOKS, &c.

"Of bathing in the hot-baths, at Bathe: chiefly with regard to the palsie, and some diseases in women, &c. By John Wynter, M. B. e coll. Christi, Cantab. London, 1728." 8vo. In this are two views of the head of Apollo, and an inscription erected by the author to the memory of Dr. Guidott.

In 1733, and 1734, Dr. John Quinton published two Volumes of "A Treatise of warm bath water; and of cures lately made at Bath, in Somersetshire, &c. &c." 4to.

Doctors, Kinneir (1737, 8vo.) Randolph (1752,) Smollet (1752, 1767, 4to.) Baylis (1757, 8vo.) Charlton (1754,) Steevens (1758, 8vo.) Sutherland (1763, 8vo.)* Lucas (1764, 8vo.) Linden (1765, 8vo.) Falconer, (1770, 2, 4, 8vo.) and several others, have written copiously on the nature and use of the Bath waters. Mr. Collinson, (Hist. of Somerset. I. p. 83, 84.) enumerates upwards of 40 treatises on this subject.

"The Description of the Hot-bath at Bath, rebuilt at the expense of the chamber of this city; together with the plans, elevation, and section of the same; the designs of John Wood, Architects, 1777," 4to.

"An Act for establishing and well-governing an hospital or infirmary, in the city of Bath, 12 Geo. 2. 1739," 12mo.

This subject, relating to the Bath Hospital, occasioned a batch of controversy, between Mr. Archibald Cleland, and others, which was carried on, from the year 1742, to the year 1759, or 60, with not a small portion of acrimony. The titles of most of the pamphlets may be seen in Gough, II. p. 204, 205. Wood published a plan of the hospital as it was originally intended to have been erected, 1738.

The life and conduct of Nash, commonly called Beau Nash, occasioned numerous books and pamphlets, both serious and comic.

"Scholæ Bathoniensis primitivæ: seu excerpta quædam è Walleri et Miltoni poematibus, Latino carmine, à scholaribus quibusdam scholæ grammaticalis Bathoniensis, donata," sans date. It was published in 1717, in 8vo.

"A journey to Bath and Bristol: an herio-comico-historical and geographical poem. To which are added, Love-poems, &c." 8vo. without date.

"A brief description of Bath, in a letter to a friend, wrote by a gentleman. To which are added, rules and orders as they stand in the pump room." 8vo.

"A Description of Bath; a Poem, in a letter to a friend, London." folio.

"A Description of Bath. A Poem, humbly inscribed to her Royal Highness the princess Amelia. London, 1734." folio. By Mary

* In this there is inserted a ground-plot of ruins discovered at Bath 1768, exhibiting the whole plan of the Roman baths. This, in part, has been re-printed separately, in 1764, 8vo.

LIST OF BOOKS, &c.

Mary Chandler.* This Poem was honoured with the approbation of Pope.

"Bath, a Poem, London, 1748." 4to.

"Iter Bathoiense." By Dr. Burton. Printed in "Epistolæ altera peregrinatis, altera susticautis. 1748." 8vo.

"The New Bath Guide; or Memoirs of the B—rn—d Family, in a series of Poetical Epistles, 1766." 8vo. Since reprinted and imitated in various ways. It has no connection with real history or topography; and is mentioned here, as on other similar occasions, merely on account of its title.†

"Bath: its beauties and amusements. Bath 1777." 4to.

"The Bath and Bristol Guide: or tradesman's and traveller's pocket companion, &c." Bath 1753." 12mo.

"The New Bath Guide; or useful pocket companion; necessary for all persons residing at, or resorting to, this ancient and opulent city, &c. 12mo. "A new edition, improved and much enlarged," 1793."

"The Stranger's assistant and guide to Bath. 1773." 12mo.

"A Description and Explanation of some remains of Roman Antiquities, dug up in the city of Bath in the year 1790, by — Pow-nell." With an Engraving, 4to.

"An Illustration of the Roman Antiquities discovered at Bath, &c. By the Rev. R. Warner, 1797," 4to.

"Remains of two Temples, and other Roman Antiquities, discovered at Bath. By S. Lysons, 1802." fol.

"History of Bath, By the Rev. R. Warner, 1800,"‡ Royal 4to.

A Compilation, or Abridgement, from it in 12mo.

"Bath; illustrated by a series of Engravings, from the drawings of John Claude Nottes. This work of thirty large engravings coloured by hand in the best manner, with letter-press, descriptive of each View," super-royal folio."

"Historical and Descriptive Account of Bath, 1801." 12mo.

"A Picturesque Guide to Bath, &c. By Hassel, 1793." 8vo. and 4to. coloured aquatinta plates.

The Accounts of Bath, Bristol, &c. in the last edition of the Guide to the Watering Places, edited by the author of the present volume,

H h h h 2 are

* She was a milliner at Bath, and sister to the late Dr. Chandler, who wrote her life, printed in the 5th volume of Cibber's Lives of the Poets.

† This is an exquisite poem for wit and satire; but the wit would not have been less pure, nor the satire less just, had the author abstained from certain reflections on religious sects, and from some of his indecent allusions.

‡ There is a long and acrimonious account of this book in the Antijacobin Review, said to have been written by the late Mr. Whitaker, the Historian of Manchester, who died in 1806.

LIST OF BOOKS, &c.

are enlarged by several additions from original MSS. communicated by several gentlemen in the county. Small 8vo. 1811.

"A Walk through SOMERSET, Devon, and part of Cornwall; embellished with two aquatic Views by Alken, from the drawings of Becker and Hulley. By the Rev. R. Warner," 8vo.

"Excursions from Bath. By the Rev. Richard Warner, 1801." 8vo.

The Bath Agricultural Society, has published much concerning various parts of this county.

"The History and Antiquities of the County of Somerset, collected from authentick Records, and an actual Survey made by the late Mr. Edmund Rack. Adorned with a Map of the County, and Engravings of Roman and other Reliques, Town Seals, Baths, Churches, and Gentlemen's Seats. By the Reverend John Collinson, F. A. S. Vicar of *Long-Ashton*, Curate of *Flitton* alias *Whitchurch*, in the County of Somerset, and Vicar of Claufield, in the County of Oxford. In three Volumes, 1791." 4to.

"*Bristol* : or manors of the city of Bristol, both civil and ecclesiastical. In two parts. Part I. An essay towards an account of the history and antiquities of that eminent city, from the conquest to the present times, containing the most remarkable occurrences, general and special, in every reign; together with complete reigns of the kings of England, lords of Bristol, abbots of St. Augustine, mayors, seneschals, bayliffs, sheriffs, &c. members of parliament, bishops, deans, chancellors, &c. chronologically digested by way of annals. Part II. A topographical view of Bristol, describing the city in general, with every parish, and extra parochial precinct in particular; containing their respective extents, boundaries, squares, streets, lanes, number of houses, and inhabitants; parochial and other officers; annual taxes; publick edifices; and select private buildings: alphabetically digested according to the parishes. Together with a brief account of its shipping, navigation, commerce, riches, and government, civil, ecclesiastical, and military. The whole collected from records, MSS. historians, &c. and illustrated with notes, critical, and historical. To which is prefixed by way of introduction, a dissertation on the antiquity of Bristol; wherein Mr. Camden's opinion, of the late rise of that ancient city, is shewn to be, not only contradictory to general tradition, and the opinion of all the antiquaries before him; but also inconsistent with his own authorities, as well as other positive and authentic testimonies. By Andrew Hooke, Esq. native thereof. Lond. 1748 and 1749," 8vo. Only the dissertation and another number were published. The author had the management of the printing-office at Bristol, and wrote "A Dialogue concerning the Window tax," and "An Essay on the National debt, 1750," 8vo. and died 1753.

"A relation of the royal, magnificent, and sumptuous entertainment, given to the high and mighty princesse queen Anne, at the renowned citie of Bristol, by the mayor, sheriffes, and aldermen, thereof, in the month of June last past, 1613; together with the oration-gifts,

LIST OF BOOKS, &c.

gifts, triumphes, water-combats, and other shewes, there made. Lond. 1613," 4to. By Robert Naile.

"Bristol's Military Garden. A sermon preached unto the worthy company of practisers in the military garden of the well governed city of Bristol. By Thomas Palmer, master of arts, and vicar of St. Thomas, and St. Mary Redcliffe, in the same citie. Lond. 1632," 4to.

"A Copie of the articles agreed upon at the surrender of the city of Bristol, between Col. N. Fiennes, governor of the city, and Col. Charles Gerrard, and Capt. Wm. Terringham, Jul. 26, 1643, &c. 1643," 4to.

"A relation made [by Col. N. Fiennes, in the house of commons] concerning the surrender of the city and castle of Bristol, 5 Aug. 1643; together with the transcripts and extracts of certain letters, wherein his care for the preservation of the city doth appear. Lond. 1643," 4to. The colonel was sentenced to lose his head for surrendering the city to prince Rupert, but pardoned at the intercession of his father Viscount Say and Sele. Clement Walker, who with Prynne, brought him to his trial, published "An answer to Col. Nathaniel Fiennes's relations, concerning his surrender of the city and castle of Bristol. Lond. 1643," 4to. The Colonel answered this in "A reply to a pamphlet, intituled, 'An answer to Col. N. Fiennes's relation, concerning his surrender of the city and castle of Bristol, by Clem. Walker.' Which said answer is here reprinted verbatim. Lond. 1643," 4to. and "A Letter to my lord general [Essex] concerning Bristol. Lond. 1643," 4to. at the end of which is Prynne's letter to the Colonel.

"A true and full relation of the prosecution, arrangement, tryal, and condemnation of N. Fiennes, late Colonel, and Governor of the city and castle of Bristol, before a council of war held at St. Alban's, during nine days space in Dec. 1643. By William Prynne and Clement Walker, Esq. Lond. 1644," 4to.

"A check to the checkes of Britannicus; or, the honour and integrity of Colonel Fiennes, revised, re-estimated, and cleared from certain prejudices and mistakes occasioned by late mis-reports, &c. 1644," 4to.

"A true relation of the storming of Bristol, and the taking the town, castle, forts, ordnance, ammunition, and arms, by Sir Thomas Fairfax's army, on Thursday the 11th of this instant Sept. 1645. Together with several articles between prince Rupert and General Fairfax, before the delivery up of the castle, 1645," 4to.

"A copy of Edward Colston, esquire's settlements for the maintenance of 12 men and 12 women in his almshouse on St. Michael's hill, and 6 poor men in the merchants-hall alms houses in King-Street, Bristol, 1708, 1712," 4to.

"An account of the election and return of Thomas Coster, Esq. member of Parliament for Bristol in 1734, with his head."

"The Bristol Riot: containing a full and particular account of the riot in general; with several material circumstances preceding and contributing

LIST OF BOOKS, &c.

contributing to it. 2. The whole proceeding relating to the trial of the rioters before Judge Powys, Justice Tracey, and Mr. Baron Price, by a gentleman who attended the commission, 1714," 8vo.

In 1736 was published "Bristol. The city charters; containing the original institution of mayors, recorders, sheriffs, town clerks, and all other officers whatsoever; as also of a common council, and the ancient laws and customs of the city; diligently compared with, and corrected according to the Latin originals. To which are added the bounds of the city, by land, with the exact distances from stone to stone, all round the city," 4to. Q. Anne's charter to this city, anno reg. 9, was printed separately, 4to.

"The exercises performed at a visitation of the Grammar School of Bristol, on Thursday the 7th of April, 1737. To which are added, Verses on the Grammar School, spoken at a former visitation. Published by A. S. Catcott, master of the said school. Bristol," 4to.

"The state of the ladies charity school lately set up in Baldwin Street, in the city of Bristol, for teaching poor girls to read and spin; together with their rules and methods of proceeding. Bristol, 1756," 4to.

"A description of the exchange of Bristol: wherein the ceremony of laying the first stone of that structure, together with that of opening the building for publick use, is particularly recited. By John Wood, architect. Bath 1745," 8vo.

"A poetical description of Bristol. By William Goldwin, M. A. late fellow of King's college in Cambridge, now master of the Grammar School in Bristol, Lond. 1712," fol.

"A description of the antient and famous city of Bristol, a Poem, by W. Goldwin, A. M. revised, with large additions, by I. Stuart, M. A. the 3rd. edition. Lond. 1751," 8vo.

"An exact delineation of the famous city of Bristol, and suburbs; together with all the high wayes, thoroughfare streets, lanes, and publick passages therein contained; composed by a scale ichnographically described, engraven and published by James Millard, citizen and inhabitant there." With views of the publick buildings, &c. at the sides; among others, the castle before its demolition 1656. The last view is dated 1710. Printed, coloured, and sold, by Rob. Walton.

A brief history of the city under a plan of all its streets, &c. long since published, was revised about 1720.* Query if Millard's?

"London and Bristol compared, a satire written in Newgate, Bristol, by the late Richard Savage, Esq." son to the earl of Rivers, by the countess of Macclesfield, who died in goal, fol. republished by Dr. Johnson, in his admired life of that unfortunate man.

To Venner's, "Via recta ad vitam longam" is annexed "A censure of the water of St. Vincent's rock near Bristol, growing in great request against the stone," first published in 1652. 8vo. and since inserted in the Harleian Miscellany, Vol. II. p. 295.

"Johannis

LIST OF BOOKS, &c.

"Johannis Subtermontani thermologia Bristolensis: or Underhill's short account of the Bristol hot well water; its uses and historical cures. Lond. 1703." 8vo.

"An enquiry into the nature and virtues of the medicinal waters, of Bristol, and their use in the cure of chronical distempers. By P. Keir, M. D. Lond. 1739," 8vo.

Against this came out, "A new analysis of the Bristol water, together with the cause of the diabetes, and hectic, and their cure, as it results from those waters, experimentally considered. By John Shebbear, chemist. Lond. 1740." 8vo.

"An enquiry into the medicinal virtues of Bristol water, and the indications of cure which it answers. By George Randolph, M. D. late fellow of All-Souls College, Oxford. Lond. 1745." and 1750, 8vo.

"The nature and qualities of Bristol-water: illustrated by experiments and observations, with practical reflections on Bath-waters, occasionally interspersed. By A. Sutherland, M. D. of Bath. Bristol 1758," 8vo.

"Observations on the earth, rocks, stones, and minerals for some miles about Bristol; and on the nature of the hot well, and the virtues of its water. By Mr. Owen. Lond. 1753," 12mo.

"An hymn to the nymph of Bristol spring. By Mr. W. Whitehead. Lond. 1751," 4to.

"Contemplations amongst Vincent rocks, near the city of Bristol. By John Dolman, 1755," 12mo.

"The History of Bristol, by William Barrett," 4to. 1789.

"The History, Antiquities, Survey, and Description of the city and suburbs of Bristol, &c. By the Rev. George Heath, 1797." 12mo.

"Clifton, a poem, in imitation of Spencer, 1775," 4to.

"Clifton, a poem in two cantos, including Bristol and all its environs. By Henry Johnes. Bristol 1766," 4to.

"The History and Beauties of Clifton Hot-wells, and vicinity, near Bristol. By G. W. Manby, Esq. with eighteen fine Views. 1806." 8vo.

"A relation from Bridgewater, since the last fight of the storming of the town by firing it, July 21, 22, 1645. 1645." 4to.

"Mr. Peter's report from the army to the Parliament, July 26, 1645, with the list of the names of men of quality taken at Bridgewater. Also the taking of Ludbury, by the Scots, 1645." 4to.

"Sir Thomas Fairfax entering Bridgewater by storming, with the list of the particulars with losses on both sides, 1645." 4to.

"Sir Thomas Fairfax's letter to William Lenthall speaker of the House of Commons, July 23, 1645, concerning the taking of Bridgewater, 1645." 4to.

"The trial of Mrs. Branch and her daughter for the murder of Jape
H h h h 4 Jape

LIST OF BOOKS, &c.

Jane Buttersworth, before the honourable Mr. Justice Chapple, at Somerset assizes, March 31, 1740; with a preface, containing an exact account taken from the persons who saw the light in Hemington church yard, the night before the corpse was taken up, and the true motives for taking up the corpse, &c." 8vo. no date.

In Robert Loveday's letters, 1664, 8vo. is one on the antiquities of Bath, and the virtues of the waters.

Kinner's "New Essay on the Nerves," was republished 1738, with "two dissertations on the gout and on digestion, with the distempers of the stomach and intestines. By D. Bayne, alias Kinneir, of that ilk, physician at Bath, and fellow of the royal College of Physicians, at Edinburgh, Lond. 1738."

"Colonel Fiennes's letter to my lord general, concerning Bristol, 1645," 4to.

"Lieutenant General Cromwell's letter to the House of Commons, Sept. 14, 1645, of taking the city of Bristol, and Prince Rupert's marching to Oxford 1645, 4to."

"An apology for the clergy of the city of Bristol, in their petitioning for an act of Parliament for their better and more certain maintenance. In a letter to a gentleman of Bristol. Lond. 1701." 8vo.

"Reasons offered to the inhabitants of Bristol, against a tax solicited for by the clergy thereof, containing notes on some animadversions, subscribed by above 400 of the inhabitants, most of them members of the church of England, about 60 years ago." Folio half sheet.

"A letter from a freeman of Bristol to Joseph Earl, Esq. member of Parliament for that city; in relation to the clergy's petition, &c. 1712." 8vo.

"An account of the Minister's conduct at the election of churchwardens, in the parish of St. Mary Redcliffe, on Tuesday in Easter week, 1725; with the reasons of it. Bristol, 1725," 4to.

"A letter from the vestry of St. Mary Redcliffe, to the Rev. Mr. Gibb, occasioned by his publishing a book, intituled, "An account of his conduct, at the electing church wardens, on Tuesday in Easter week, 1725. Bristol, 1725." 4to.*

"List of the free-holders and freemen, who voted at the election of member of Parliament for the city and county of Bristol, begun Wednesday May 15, 1734, before Michael Pope and Benjamin Glesson, Esquires, sheriffs: candidates John Scrope, Esquire; Sir Abraham Elton, bart. and Thomas Coster, Esq. Done from Mr. Coster's original poll-book. Bristol." 12mo.

"An account of the proceeding of the corporation of Bristol, in execution of the act of Parliament for the better employing and maintaining of the poor of that city. London, 1700. By John Cary." 8vo.

"Some

* Mr. Britton has announced a work, Historical and Descriptive of St. Mary Redcliffe Church.

"Some considerations offered to the citizens of Bristol, relating to the corporation for the poor in the said city, 1711." 8vo.

"True report, or description of a horrible, woeful and most lamentable murder, done in the city of Bristol, by one John Kymester on his wife, in August 1572." 4to.

"Sketchley's Bristol Directory; including Clifton, Bedminster, the out parishes St. James and St. Philip," with a copper plate of the Exchange.

An address to the inhabitants of Glastonbury, and those that resort thither on account of the medicinal waters lately discovered there. Bristol, 1751," 8vo.

"The history and antiquities of Glastonbury. To which are added (1.) The endowments and orders of Sherington's chantry, founded in St. Paul's church, London, (2.) Dr. Plot's letter to the earl of Arlington, concerning Thetford. To all which pieces (never before printed) a preface is prefixed, and an appendix subjoined, by the publisher Thomas Hearne, M. A. Oxf. 1722," 8vo. The title of this account whose author studiously concealed his name, is "A little monument to the once famous abbey and borough of Glastonbury; or, a short specimen of the history of that ancient monastery and town, giving an account of the rise and foundation of both. To which is added, the description of the remaining ruins, and of such an abbey, as that of Glastonbury is supposed to have been; with an account of the miraculous thorn, that blows still on Christmas day, and the wonderfull walnut tree, that annually used to blow upon St. Barnaby's day. Together with an appendix, consisting of charters, and instruments, to strengthen the authority of what is related. Whereto is annexed, the life of King Arthur, who there lay'd buried, and was a considerable benefactor to this abbey. Collected out of some of our best antiquaries and historians; and finish't April the 28th, 1716."

"Adami de Domerham historia de rebus gestis Glastoniensibus, E. codice M. S. perantiquo in bibliotheca collegii S. Trinitatis Cantabrigiæ, descripsit primusque in lucem protulit Tho. Hearnius. Qui et (præter alia, in quibus dissertatio de inscriptione per veteri Romanæ Cicestrix nuper reperta) Gulielmi Malmesburiensis librum de antiquitate ecclesiæ Glastoniensis, et Edmundi Archeri excerpta aliquammulta satis egregia e registris Wellensibus, præmisit. Duobus voluminibus. Oxon. 1727," 8vo. This author lived about the middle of the 13th century. Wharton published his "Historia controversiæ inter episcopos Bathonienses et monachos Glastonienses," which was no more than an abstract of this work by John, hereafter mentioned, or rather the entire composition of some other hand. Domerham's history is only a continuation of Malmesbury's, which being printed by Gale among his Script. Hist. Ang. Ox. 1691, folio, very incorrectly, Hearne republished it with large additions from other MSS. a detail of the proceedings on Abbot More's election 1456, transcribed from Wells register by archdeacon Archer: sundry charters respecting this abbey from the same; and the instrument of Robert Whiting's election, communicated by Doctor Tanner.

"Johannis,

LIST OF BOOKS, &c.

"*Johannis, confratris et monachi Glastoniensis, chronica, sive historia de rebus Glastoniensibus.* E'codice MS. membranaceo antiquo descriptis ediditque Tho. Hearnius. Qui et ex eodem codice historiolum de antiquitate et augmentatione vetustæ ecclesiæ S. Mariæ Glastoniensis præmisit, multaque excerpta e Richardi Beere (abbatis Glastoniensis) terrario hujus cænobii subjecit. Accedunt, quædam, eodem spectantia, ex egregio MS. nobiscum communicato, ab amicis eruditissimis Cantabrigiensibus ut et appendix, in qua, inter alia, de S. Ingnatii epistolarum codice medico, et de Johannis, Dee, mathematici celeberrimi, vita atque scriptis agitur. Duobus voluminibus. Oxon. 1726," 8vo. Hearne published this chronicle from a MS. belonging to Lord Charles Bruce, collated with another in the Ashmolean library.

"A compleat and authentick history of the town and abbey of Glastonbury, the magnificence and glory of which was formerly the admiration of all Europe, giving an account of its founders, the means whereby it rose to so much glory, the high veneration it was held in by both Christians and infidels, the immense riches given to it by kings, queens, and emperors, the holy men who liv'd in it, and many other curious particulars, collected from Sir W. Dugdale, bp. Godwyn, Mr. Hearne, bp. Tanner, and other learned men. To which is added, an accurate account of the properties and uses of the mineral waters there, confirmed by proper experiments, with some direction in what manner they should be made use of, so as to be most serviceable; and an authentic account of many remarkable cures perform'd by them, with remarks. By a physician. The second edition corrected," 8vo.

"Wilt thou be made whole? or the virtues and efficacy of the water of Glastonbury in the county of Somerset, illustrated in above twenty remarkable cases faithfully described, of persons who by the use of that water have been cured of disorders of the most obstinate and deplorable kinds; such as the asthma, rheumatism, dropsy, king's evil, deafness, blindness, wens, cancers, ulcers, old swellings, leprosy, &c. These cases, being but a few out of a vast number and variety that may be collected, are certain facts, and fairly proved, either by the affidavits and hand-writing, or marks of the persons cured, taken in the presence of sensible honest people, who knew them and their cases both before and after their cure; or by attestations of the ministers and church-wardens of their respective parishes; or by credible and impartial witnesses, living in parts too remote from Glastonbury, to have any connexion with the private interests of the place, that should in any sense weaken the sufficiency of their testimony. To which is prefixed a letter of an ingenious and sensible clergyman, taken from the Sherbourn and Yeovil Mercury of the 29th of April last. Collected by an inhabitant of Bath. Lond. 1751." 8vo.

"A short description of the waters at Glastonbury; together with an impartial account of the effects thereof, in a variety of cases, in a letter to a lady, by a disinterested clergyman not at all obliged to the

the inhabitants, nor in the least concerned in the interest of the town. Oxon. 1751," 8vo.

A good idea of the revenue of this see may be formed from "A case concerning the buying of bishops lands, with the lawfulness thereof; and the difference between the contractors for sale of those lands, and the corporation of Wells, (ordered anno 1650, to be reported to the then Parliament) with the necessity thereof, since fallen upon Dr. Corn. Burges, Lond. 1659," 4to.

"A letter to a great man in the city of Wells. By a stocking maker, 1765." 8vo. relates to an election for members for the city.

"The antient laws, customs, and orders, of the miners in the King's forest of Mendipp, in the county of Somerset. Lond. 1687." 12mo.

"A true report of certaine wonderfull overflowing of waters, now lately in Somersetshire, Gloucestershire, Norfolk, and other parts of England; destroying many thousands of men, women, and children, overthrowing and bearing down whole townes and villages, and drowning infinite numbers of sheep and other cattle," 4to. sans date.

"More strange news of wonderfull accidents, happening by the late overflowing of waters in Somersetshire, Gloucestershire, Norfolk, and other parts of England; with a true relation of the townes' names that are lost, and the number of persons drowned; with other reports of accidents, that were not before discovered, happening about Bristow and Barstable." 4to. sans date.

"To the king's most excellent majesty, and the honorable houses of Parliament. A mediterranean passage by water, from London to Bristol, &c. and from Lynne to Yarmouth, and so consequently to the city of York; for the great advancement of trade and traffic. By Francis Mathew, Esq. Lond. 1670." 4to. The map by Joseph Moxon, hydrographer to Charles II.

"Two letters, one from Sir Thomas Fairfax, the other from Col. Ralph Weldon, of raising the siege and relieving the towne of Taunton, read in Parliament 14th May, 1645. 1645." 4to.

"A narration of the expedition to Taunton, and raising the siege before it, sent from a commander in the army, May 18, 1645. 1645." 4to.

"The story of the clubmen and relief of Taunton, by the army under Sir Thomas Fairfax, from July 1 to 6, 1645. 1645." 4to.

"A letter to William Lenthall, speaker of the House of Commons, July 5th, 1645, of the raising of the siege of Taunton, by the Parliament's forces, 1645." 4to.

"The History of the Town of Taunton, in the county of Somerset, (embellished with plates) by Joshua Toulmin, A. M. 1791." 4to.

MAPS, PLANS, AND VIEWS.

Four views of the cross bath, two hot baths, and pump room, engraved by J. Fayram, 1738-9.

Vertue

LIST OF BOOKS, &c.

Vertue engraved thirteen samples of antique silver chased plate, found at Bath.

A large plan of the city was engraved by T. Savage, before 1713, on four sheets, with views of the abbey church and house, St. John's hospital, St. James' church, the two cundicts, Billet's hospital, St. Michael's church, Sir Thomas Escourt's house, Guildhall, and twenty nine lodging houses; and plans of the baths, by Joseph Gilmore, teacher of mathematics, who published a View of Bath, engraved by John Savage 1726. with the S. view of the abbey at the corner.

Mr. Reynolds took a plan of Bath for the Duke of Kingston 1725; but J. Wood, who mentions it, does not say whether it was published.

Another, copied from the original survey of John Wood 1735, was engraved by Pine, after the manner of the celebrated plan of Paris.

A plan of the city and suburbs of Bath, according to the latest improvements, published by J. Bassett (stationer there). R. Cosins, sculpt.

A new and correct plan of the city of Bath, with all the additional buildings to the present time, 1770.

Mr. Thorpe published an actual survey of the city, and five miles round; wherein are laid down all the villages, gentlemen's seats, farm houses, roads, high-ways, rivers, watercourses, and all things worthy of observation, in 10 sheets, circular. It was reduced in one sheet, with alterations and improvements to the present time, 1773.

S. E. prospect of this city, by Buck, 1734.

S. W. prospect of Bath from Beechen cliff. T. Robins pinxit. H. Roberts sc. 1757, dedicated to the mayor and corporation; published by Riall and Withy.

An elevation to the S. of the buildings in Queens Square in Bath, as designed by Wood, has been engraved by Fourdrinier.

Cozens published 1778, eight views in Bath, engraved like drawings, viz. S. view of the city, and another from the London road; the N. parade, Queen's square, the crescents, the circus and the new bridge.

Ames mentions a map of the city of Brishtowe, by George Hoefnagel, one sheet, 1577. This seems to be in Braunii civitates, p. III. 1581.

A geometrical plan of the city and suburbs of Bristol, surveyed by John Rocque, land surveyor, engraved by Pine, with views of Redcliffe church, four fronts of the exchange, the cathedral and college walks from the S. side of the Avon, the high cross and cathedral from the S. side of College Green, the great crane and slip, Clifton, and Brandon hills, St. Vincent's rocks.

A map of the country eleven miles round the city of Bristol, delineated from an actual survey, by Benj. Donn, teacher of the mathematics, was published 1770 in two sheets, and two half sheets. With a plan of Stanton Dru, and a view of St. Vincent's rocks, and the

LIST OF BOOKS, &c.

the Hot-well house, taken from the lead works near Rownham ferry, at the corners.

A prospect of the city of Bristol. H. Blundell. J. Kep del. sc. 1717.

S. E. and N. views of the city, By Buck, 1743.

Of the mutilated cathedral an exact survey was taken 1717. King and Harris did a N. view of it.

Toms engraved, 1745, a large S. view of St. Mary Redcliffe church, by J. Halfpenny; and another S. prospect by James Stewart the same year.

A view of the cross by Buck, 1734. It was removed from the city to the college green, and since to the entrance of Mr. Hoare's garden, at Sourhead.

N. W. view of Bristol high cross, with a prospect of the cathedral, and the parish church of St. Augustine, drawn by R. West 1737, engraved by W. H. Toms, 1742.

N. prospect of Queen's Square, in the city of Bristol; inscribed to Mr. Sam. Workman, teacher of mathematics there, by William Halfpenny, B. Cole sc.

A perspective view, with the plans of the charitable infirmary, in the city of Bristol, as it now is, with the addition of two intended wings, taken from draughts. William Halfpenny del. 1742. W. H. Toms sculp.

A view of Bristol hot-well house, and St. Vincent's rock, taken from the lead works near Rownham ferry, published by John Palmer, bookseller at Bristol.

Two small ones, by Chatelain, engraved by — Angier, 1753.

S. view of St. Vincent's rocks, and the hot wells, &c. engraved by Benoit 1750, from a painting by Smith.

Also a S. E. view from Durdham down, near Bristol, looking down the Avon to King-road and the Welsh mountains, by Chatelain and Vivares.

Dr. Rawlinson mentions* a survey of the cathedral of Wells, taken some time ago, in private hands.

N. W. view, with the ichnography, poorly drawn by T. Fourd, and engraved by Toms, has been since published. The best is that drawn by Newcourt, and engraved with the S. side by King.

S. view of the bishop's palace, and N. W. of the city, by Buck, 1733.

A plan of the city, by William Simes, 1735. Toms sculp.

Messrs. Bucks engraved, 1733, the following castles :

S. Montacute priory.

N. E. Dunster, W. Stokecourci, N. Farley, N. E. Nunny.

Cleve

LIST OF BOOKS, &c.

Cleve abbey, 1754, by Grose and Sparrow, 1773:

Burrough chapel, 1762, }
Farley castle and chapel, } by the same, 1774.

Lundy castle, two plates by Grose, D. L. and Sparrow, 1775.
Plan by Mr. Grose.

The monument erected on Lansdown near Bath to the memory of Sir Bevill Grenville slain there, was engraved 1746, the inscription extracted from the Oxford verses on his death.

Brumpton house, the seat of Sir Philip Sydenham. James Fish of Warwick del. 1699. Jos. Nutting sc.

Saxton's map of this "fruitful" county, was engraved by Leonard Teeewort, 1575, without the hundreds, added in Speed's map, with a plan of Bath and the baths; that of Bristol being inserted in his map of Gloucestershire.

Mr. Strachy published a map of this county from an actual survey made by himself.

Another map, with the ichnography of Bath, by Em. Bowen.

"A Plan of the Roads from London to Bath, by Chippenham and by Devizes, describing every place on or near the road, with the distances correctly laid down."

"A plan of the city of Bristol, delineated from actual survey, by Benjamin Donn. 1773."

Donn's map of the environs of Bristol, was abridged in one sheet.

The Hotwell at Bristol, from a meadow near Rowenham passage, after P. Sandy, by T. Chesham. Virt. Mus. pl. 68.

Temple of Pan in Sir Charles Kenny's Tyntes' gardens, at Haswell, by Mr. Johnson, Royal Acad. 1778.

T. Richard's view of Hanswell was engraved by W. Watts, 1780.

"Descriptions and figures of petrifications, found in quarries and gravel pits, near Bath. Collected and drawn by John Walcott, Esq. Bath, 1779." 8vo.

The Architectural Antiquities of Great Britain, by J. Britton, Esq. F. A. S. contain several exquisite engravings, relative to this county.

SUMMARY OF THE POPULATION OF SOMERSET,
As published by Authority of Parliament in 1811.

Hundreds, &c.	Houses.	PERSONS.		OCCUPATIONS.		Total of Persons.
		Males.	Females.	Families employed in Agriculture.	In Trade and Manufacture.	
Abdick and Bulstone	1536	4242	4470	1140	519	8712
Andersfield	349	971	1065	306	71	2036
Bath Forum	2117	5419	6918	528	1324	12337
Bempstone	996	2609	2752	708	175	5361
Brent and Wrington..	621	1796	1972	449	158	3768
Bruton	725	1600	1961	373	391	3561
Canington	781	2190	2249	649	194	4439
Carhainpton	1305	3105	3418	751	292	6523
Catsash	217	3074	3287	812	291	6361
Chew and Chewton..	2454	6563	8819	1244	500	13382
Crewkerne	1023	2387	2933	656	379	5323
Curry North	636	1502	1561	479	155	3063
Ferris Norton	802	1930	2261	392	364	4191
Frome	3166	7580	9018	889	1959	10598
Glaston-twelve Hides	919	2384	2665	309	192	5049
Hampton and Claverton.....	77	206	244	54	16	450
Hartcliff with Bedminster	1298	3574	3859	397	755	7433
Hovethorne	1202	2884	3132	726	391	6016
Houndsborough	1197	2979	3508	575	702	6487
Huntspile and Purston	257	688	763	210	58	1451
Keynsham	1466	3619	3922	618	367	7541
Kilmersdon	1121	2303	2643	423	185	4946
Kingsbury, East and West	2931	6873	8082	1285	1435	14955
Martock	380	1106	1250	242	180	2356
Mells and Leigh	341	796	827	100	160	1623
Milverton	711	1708	1943	461	253	3651
Petherton North	894	2162	2316	711	168	4478
Petherton South	942	2427	2696	766	281	5123
Pitney	218	685	716	126	151	1401
Portbury	1102	3214	3790	515	151	6509
Somerton	879	2060	2239	640	204	4303
Stone	706	1995	2399	320	477	4394
Taunton and Taunton Dean	1620	4411	4801	1292	367	9272

TABLE CONTINUED.

Hundreds, &c.	Houses.	PERSONS.		OCCUPATIONS.		Total of Persons.
		Males.	Females.	Families employed in Agriculture.	In Trade and Manufacture.	
Tentinhull.....	535	1558	1694	349	271	3252
Wellow.....	1069	2872	2920	406	513	5792
Wells Forum.....	1686	4035	4838	964	689	8873
Whitestone.....	2435	4916	6179	1271	944	11095
Whitley.....	1706	4682	4892	1457	370	9574
Williton and Free- manners.....	2326	6044	6385	1736	605	12429
Winterstoke.....	2572	6321	7034	1634	651	13353
City of Bath.....	4279	12373	19123	96	4707	31496
Borough of Bridge- water.....	916	2241	2670	87	370	4911
Borough of Taun- ton.....	1371	3040	3957	126	1147	6997
Local Militia.....		2316				2316
Totals.....	54787	141449	161734	27472	23732	303180

A LIST

OF THE PRINCIPAL
BOOKS, MAPS, AND VIEWS,
THAT HAVE BEEN PUBLISHED IN

*Illustration of the History, Topography, Antiquities,
&c. of the
COUNTY OF STAFFORD.*

SAMPSON Erdeswicke, of Sandon, Esq. whom Camden calls *veneranda antiquitatis cultor maximus*, collected the antiquities of his native county 1603.* His original MS. or a copy, was in Wood's time in the hands of Walter Chetwynd, of Ingestre, Esq. who was himself long engaged in the same design, but did not live to complete it. Afterwards George Digby, of Sandon, Esq. had it, and lent it to Sir Simon Degge, who returned it with the letter annexed to the printed edition. This "Survey of Staffordshire, containing the antiquities of that county, with a description of Beeston Castle,† in Cheshire," was published from Sir William Dugdale's transcript of the author's original copy. To which are added, some observations upon the possessors of monastery lands in Staffordshire: by Sir Simon Degge, Knt. Lond. 1719. 8vo. Only the latter part of this most incorrect edition was printed from Dugdale's copy; the other from a MS. in Thoresby's museum, No. 44, bought at his sale by John Wightwick, Esq. of Wightwick, in this county, which has some corrections in a different hand, and goes no farther than p. 201, of the printed book, resuming the history again in Degge's letter, which ends, but does not begin, in the epistolary form. Both parts were reprinted 1723, 8vo. Among the Harleian MSS. No. 1990, is a very correct copy of this Survey.

VOL. XIII.

IIII

Dr.

* Erdeswicke grew crazy towards the end of his life. Ath. Ox. I. 487. He wrote the true use of arms, published 1592, under the name of William Wryley, Dugd. Ant. usage of arms, p. 4.

† Boydell engraved a large view of this castle, from an old drawing in the possession of William Cowper, Esq. F. R. S.

LIST OF BOOKS, &c.

Dr. Gower of Chelmsford was possessed of another correct copy of Erdeswicke; and Mr. Gough had a third copy of this book. A MS. of Erdeswicke, with additions, by John Hurdman of Stone, was in the hands of George Tollet, Esq. of Betley in this county, who died October, 22nd. 1779. He wrote many excellent notes on Shakspeare, and a Dissertation on the figures of Morris dancers in his window at Betley, which, with an engraving of them, is printed in the fifth volume of the last edition of that author, p. 425.

"The Natural History of Staffordshire. By Robert Plott, LL.D. keeper of the Ashmolean Museum, and professor of chymistry in the university of Oxford. Oxf. 1686," folio. In the epistle dedicatory to his history of Oxfordshire, he seems to promise an account of the other counties; but closes his work, the result of nine years' study and travel, with a resolution to publish no more of these histories, (though I think, says he, I never was so fit as now,) unless commanded by a power that he must not resist; meaning James II. whose approbation of his Natural History of Oxfordshire encouraged him to compile this, which was published by subscription of a penny a sheet, a penny a plate, and sixpence the map, amounting to 10 or 12 shillings the copy.

"Articles for delivering up Lichfield Close, July 16th. with a list of the officers and gentlemen of quality, who were in the Close at the surrender, 1646." 4to.

"An address to the Gentlemen and inhabitants of the city of Litchfield, on the expediency of uniting the several parishes of St. Mary, St. Michael, and St. Chad, into one district, for the better maintenance and employment of their poor. As also on the advantages which would arise from the building one commodious house for their reception. To which is added, the plan and elevation of a building, well adapted to that purpose; together with some remarks on the management and oeconomy of poor houses in general. The whole attempted with a view to lower the poor's rates, and yet to afford them a more decent and comfortable provision than they have hitherto enjoyed. By James Wickins, churchwarden of St. Mary's parish."

"A true relation of the taking of the Close at Litchfield by Prince Rupert, with some arms and ammunition. With the whole of the proceedings of both armies at Reading, &c. Lond. 1643." 8vo. has not a word about Litchfield, but about Reading.

"Joyful news from Litchfield, being the true copy of a letter sent from a captain in Litchfield to his wife in Lond. dated April 17, wherein is contained the proceedings of Prince Rupert, against the Parliament's forces in the town; containing the manner of Prince Rupert's assaulting Litchfield; his endeavouring to undermine the wall with pick axes, how he attempted to scale the walls of the close, and what men he lost in that attempt; how he was repulsed by the Parliament's forces, and how they rung the bells in defiance of him, &c. &c. Lond. 1643," 4to.

"Honour advanced, or a brief account of the long keeping and late leaving of the close at Litchfield, being a full relation of all the passages

LIST OF BOOKS, &c.

passages worthy of observation, during the whole time of the siege; as also of the honourable terms upon which it was resigned. By Captain John Randolph, a commander and eye-witness in the close, 1643," 4to.

"Valour crowned, or a relation of the valiant proceedings of the Parliament's forces in the close at Litchfield, against prince Rupert discovering the honourable conditions on which it was surrendered, as it was written from L. Col. Russell, chief commander in the close, Lond. 1643," 4to.

We were promised "The state of St. Mary's church in Stafford, from the time of Q. Elizabeth's grant, to this day; faithfully represented, and humbly submitted to the judgment of the right hon. the lord high-chancellor of Great Britain, under his majesty, the undoubted patron of that church, and to the consideration of all lovers of truth and justice. Together with a true copy of the said grant, and some remarks on the management of the school revenues, and of several charities given to the inferior burgesses, and to the poor of the town. By Joseph Walshorne, M. A. rector of St. Mary's in Stafford, for his own vindication."*

"An abstract of the deed of settlement of the benevolent Society at Stafford for the benefit of widows and fatherless children, approved by counsel, and to be enrolled in the high court of chancery, bearing date the 1st day of January, 1770, with a prefatory discourse on the occasion, by a member. Woolverhampton," 4to.

One Wheeler a Catholic priest published "A faithful relation of the proceedings of the Catholick gentlemen with the boy of Bilson, &c. 1620," reprinted in "The boy of Bilson, or a true discovery of the late notorious impostures, of certaine Romish priests in their pretended exorcismes, or expulsion of the diuell out of a young boy, named William Perry, sonne of Thomas Perry of Bilson, in the county of Stafford, yeoman: upon which occasion, hereunto is premitted a briefe theologicall discourse, by way of caution, for the more easie discerning of such Romish spirits; and judging of their false pretences, both in this and the like practices. Lond. 1622," 4to. By Richard Baddeley.

"Strange and true news from Staffordshire, or a true narrative concerning a young man lying under almighty God's just vengeance for imprecating God's judgment upon himself, and pleading his innocency, though he knew himself guilty. Written by W. Vincent, minister of God's word at Bednall, in the county of Stafford, who saw and discoursed with the same person upon the 2nd. day of April 1677, the saddest spectacle that ever eyes beheld. Lond. 1677," 4to. reprinted in the Harleian Miscellany, vol. II. p. 311.

"A discourse concerning God's judgements; resolving many weighty questions and cases relating to them: preached (for the substance of it) at Old Swinford in Worcestershire, and now published to accompany the annexed narrative, concerning the man whose hands and legs lately rotted off, in the neighbouring parish of King's Swinford.

1112

LIST OF BOOKS, &c.

ford in Staffordshire, penned by another authour. By Simon Ford, D. D. and rector of the said parish. Lond. 1678." 12mo.

"A just narrative, or account of the man whose hands and legs rotted off, in the parish of King's Swinford in Staffordshire, where he died, June 21, 1677, carefully collected by Ja. Illingworth, B. D. an eye and ear witness of most of the material passages in it. Lond. 1678," 12mo. Lately republished under the title of "A genuine account, &c. To which is added (occasioned by this remarkable instance of divine vengeance,) a discourse concerning God's judgments preached (in substance) at Old Swinford in Worcestershire, a neighbouring parish to King's Swinford. By Simon Ford, D. D. and rector of the said parish. To the whole is prefixed the Rev. Mr. Wm. Whiston's remarkable mention of this extraordinary affair; with his reasons for the republication thereof, taken from his memoirs. Lond. [1751]" 8vo.

"*Fons sanitatis*, or the healing spring at Willowbridge in Staffordshire; found out by the right hon. lady Jane Gerard baroness of Bromley: published for the common good, by Samuel Gilbert, chaplain to her honour, and rector of Quatt. Lond. 1676." 12mo.

"A true relation of the terrible earthquake at West Brummidge in Staffordshire, and the parts adjacent, on Tuesday the 4th of this instant, January 167 $\frac{1}{2}$ as it was lately sent by several letters from those parts to divers eminent citizens in London; and likewise a true account of the terror of the earthquake at Kidderminster in Worcestershire, as it was communicated in a letter to an eminent artist in London, from his correspondence there. London, 1676." 4to. Eight pages.

At the end of Erdeswicke's survey is "A scheme or proposal for making a navigable communication, between the rivers of Trent and Severn, in the county of Stafford. By Dr. Thomas Congreve of Wolverhampton." Reprinted 1753, with observations on the rivers between Oxford and Bath, and a map, not mentioned in the title.

"The case of the gentlemen freeholders and others, who have right of common in the forest or chase of Needwood, in the county of Stafford." half a sheet, folio.

"Needwood forest. Litch. 1776." [by — Mundy, Esq.] 4to. not for sale.

In Giles's poems, 1771, 8vo. p. 96, is one intituled "Dosthill Spa," with a description of the country adjacent. Query if St. Thomas's hall, a descriptive poem? ib. p. 132, is not within this county.

"The History and Antiquities of Staffordshire. Compiled from the manuscripts of Hunthach, Londole, Bishop Lyttleton, and others. Collections of Dr. Wilkes, the Rev. T. Feilde, and including Erdeswick's Survey of the County; and the approved parts of Dr. Plott's Natural History. The whole brought down to the present time; interspersed with pedigrees and anecdotes of families; observations on agriculture, commerce, mines, and manufactories; and illustrated with a very full and correct new map of the county, *agri Staffordiensis icon* and numerous other plates. By the Rev. Stebbing Shaw. B. D.

LIST OF BOOKS, &c.

B. D. F. A. S. and fellow of Queen's College, Cambridge, 1798." folio.

"History of the city and cathedral of Lichfield. Chiefly compiled from ancient authors, &c. By John Jackson, Junr. 1805." 8vo."*

"History and antiquities of the church and city of Lichfield. Containing its ancient and present state, civil and ecclesiastical; collected from various public records, and other authentic evidences. By the Rev. Thomas Harwood, F. S. A. late of University College, Oxford. London, 1806.

"General View of the Agriculture of the county of Stafford; with observations on the means of its improvement. By William Pitt, of Pendeford, near Wolverhampton; with the additional remarks of several respectable gentlemen and farmers, in the county. Drawn up by order of the Board of Agriculture. The second Edition, 1808." 8vo.

"A short account of Lichfield Cathedral, more particularly of the painted glass with which its windows are adorned, intended principally for the information of strangers." Lichfield, Edit. 1811.

"Account of the Extraordinary Abstinence of Ann Moore. By J—— L——" 1809.

"An examination of the Imposture of Ann Moore, called the Fasting Woman of Tutbury; illustrated by remarks on other cases of real and pretended abstinence. By Alexander Henderson, M. D. Physician to the Westminster General Dispensary." 1813.

MAPS, PLANS, AND VIEWS.

In Ashmole's collections is a draught or prospect of Lichfield close, with the representation of the great steeple beat down below the bottom of the spire; and the W. front, as it stood shattered with the battery of the doors and windows of the church. Willis's Cath. I. 379.

W. and S. Prospect of Lichfield cathedral by Hollar 1672, for the Monasticon, iii. 1672.

King engraved the W. and Harris the N. sides of the church.

A large print of the W. front, and a smaller of the S. side was executed by the late Francis Perry, who afterwards destroyed the plates.

I i i i 3

E. View

* This edition contains, 276 pp. The first edition was sold for 2s. 6d. and only 300 copies of it were printed. It was compiled from the Magna Britannia, some MSS. in the Museum at Lichfield, and from other papers laid before the author, who was then not quite 18 years of age. After arranging his materials, he composed it, or set it up for the press, himself worked it off at press, and afterwards bound, or boarded, the whole impression, which was all disposed of in the first two days. *Private information.*

LIST OF BOOKS, &c.

E. View of the cathedral and close from Stowpool, near St. Chad's church, 1745, by Richard Greene, engraved by J. Wood.

Bishop Hacket's monument was engraved by Hollar for his life prefixed to his "Century of Sermons," published by Dr. Plume. 1675, fol.

A plan of Wolverhampton, surveyed in 1750 by Isaac Taylor, was engraved by T. Jefferys, with the number of houses and inhabitants, and a S. view of St. Peter's church, and the School.

Dr. Rawlinson engraved the foundation charter of Croxden abbey, by Roger de Verdun 1179, in his possession 1743.

N. E. view of the ruins by Buck, 1731.

J. Mynde engraved for Dr. Huddesford, the monument of Sir John Hanbury, of Hanbury, in this county, from Mr. Ashmole's drawing in his museum, No. 7058.

A view of the ruins of the church of Fairwald, olim Fagrovella, drawn by Richard Green of Lichfield, engraved by F. Peiry.

A large S. W. prospect of Burton upon Trent, by Buck 1732.

The Conventual Church of Burton, was engraved by Hollar for the Monasticon.

Bucks other views in this County are,

S. W. Dudley priory.

S. Dudley, } castles.
S. W. Alton, }

The steam-engine near Dudley castle, invented by Captain Savery and Mr. Newcomen, erected by the latter, was drawn and engraved by T. Barnes, 1719.

"A plan of the navigable canals, intended to be made for opening a communication between the interior parts of the kingdom and the ports of Bristol, Liverpool, and Hull."

Saxton's map was engraved 1577 by Scatteredus, without the hundreds added with plans of Stafford and Lichfield in Spced's, 1710.

Hollar engraved a small map, 1610.

Em. Bowen engraved another.

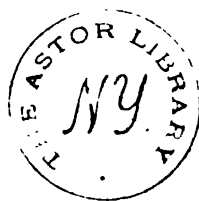
A new map of Staffordshire 1747, printed for Sam. Parsons, bookseller in Newcastle under Line. Dedicated to Lord Gower; with the arms of the gentry, &c. at the four sides; and an alphabetical list of the hundreds, constabewicks, and market towns.

A map of the County of Stafford, from an actual survey begun in the year 1769, and finished in 1775. By William Gates. Engraved by John Chapman, in six sheets.

Wild's Cathedrals, Part III. contains, "An illustration of the architecture of the cathedral, churches, of Lichfield and Chester, on sixteen plates, accompanied by an historical and descriptive account, printed in Atlas quarto." 1813.

SUMMARY OF THE POPULATION OF STAFFORD,
As published by Authority of Parliament in 1811.

Hundreds, &c.	House.	PERSONS.		OCCUPATIONS.		Total of Persons.
		Males.	Females.	Families employed in Agriculture.	In Trade and Manufactory.	
Cullestone East and West.....	4226	10391	10664	2377	1347	21055
Offlow North and South.....	14927	39485	38875	5199	8471	78360
Pirehill North and South.....	14604	36758	3875	4820	8159	74633
Seisdon North and South.....	12449	31653	3559	2160	1557	63251
Totmanslow North and South.....	7580	18263	19581	3463	2910	37844
City of Lichfield.....	1030	2237	2785	242	509	5022
Borough of Newcastle Under-Line.....	1344	2940	3235	47	1207	6175
Borough of Stafford..	885	2401	2467	43	851	4868
Local Militia.....		3945				3945
Totals.....	57040	148073	147080	18361	34011	295153



INDEX

NY

THE COUNTY OF STAFFORD.

A.

Abbot's Bromley, 875; government 876; school, *ib.*; alms house, *ib.*; church, *ib.*; trade, *ib.*; population, *ib.*; remarkable custom, *ib.*
Adams, Dr. his opinion of Dr. Johnson, 817.
Agardisley Park, 1131.
Aikin, Dr. his description of the potteries, 1057—1066.
Aldridge, 831.
Allen, Thomas, mathematician, 951; character of by Selden, Camden, and Burton, 952.
Alrewas, parish of, 144, 780.
Alsager, Mr. his improvement in the potter's wheel, 1062.
Alstonfield parish, 1009; Dove river, lines upon, by Cotton, *ib.*; a fortress called Bonebury, formerly near this place, 1009.
Alveton, 993.
Anecdotes of fasting persons. See Moore, Ann.
Anson, Thomas, Esq. memoir of, 1086—1087.
Ansons, Shuckborough family seat of, 1087; statues, *ib.*; monument, *ib.*; Chinese house, 1088.
Anson, Lord, the celebrated navigator, memoir of, 1089—1095; voyage round the world; literary history of, curious, 1095—1098.

Aquetate, lake, 737.
Arbury, Mr. a potter, his discovery, 1061.
Ardene, Sir Ino. 820.
Armitage, village and parish of, 784.
Ashcomb House, 1166.
Asheburn, The. an opponent of Wickliff, 901.
Ashmole, Elias, celebrated antiquary, memoir of, 801—812.
Aston, Lord Edward and Lady Ann, their altar tomb, 893.
Aston, Sir Edward, and Lady Joan, their monument, 894.
Aston, Sir Walter, 878, 907, 908.
Aston Hall, 938.
Astrologers, the first in Europe, 813.
Atner, or Atene, parish, 926; Saxon antiquities, 927.
Atterbury, bishop, 814.
Audley, Lord, 924—926.

B.

Ball Hays, 1168.
Barrow, Elford park farm, 821, 827.
Barton Park, 1131.
Bassets of Blore, their pedigree, 968—975.
Beacon hill, 917.
Belmont House, 1167.
Benedictine monks, priory of, 734.
Bentley Hall, 843; Col. Lane, King Charles, II. *ib.*
Beresford Hall, 1000, 1005.

Brereton,

INDEX.

- **Brereton, Sir Wm.** his curious letter, 884.
 - Bescot Hall,** 838.
 - Betley town,** 930; two handsome seats, 936; **Audley,** a small village near, 931; church, 1:61.
 - **Biddulph, parish,** 954; antiquities, 955; character of the inhabitants, 1071.
 - Billington,** fortification, 903.
 - **Bilston,** 862; houses, ib.; manufactures, ib.; mines in the neighbourhood, ib.; chapel, ib.; school, ib.
 - Birmingham canal,** 736.
 - Bishop's Woods,** 923.
 - Black Canons,** priory of, at Stafford, 897.
 - Blithfield,** seat of the Bagot's, 877; its paintings, ib.; church, 880.
 - Blore,** village remarkable as connected with the illustrious family of Bassets, 968; church, 973, 975.
 - Bloreheath,** scene of a battle, 924.
 - Bloxwich,** hamlet, 858.
 - **Blundeville, Richard,** Earl of Chester, 944.
 - **Blythe,** the river, 733.
 - **Bond-tenants,** what, 1106.
 - **Boothby, Sir Brooke,** his generosity, 799.
 - Boscobel,** 1154.
 - **Bottom hall,** 1167.
 - **Bradley, hamlet,** 863; phenomenon at, ib.
 - Bradley hall,** 848.
 - parish, 994; chapel, ib.; population, 1037.
 - Bramshall,** a parish, 996; population, ib.; rectory, ib.
 - Brewood,** a market town, 867; population, 868; free school, ib.; custom of adorning wells, ib.
 - Britain,** arch-druid of, chief seat in the vicinity of Sutton Coldfield, 724.
 - Brindley, Mr.** some account of, 734.
 - Bromwich, Andrew,** memoir of, 1170.
 - Brook, Lord,** impious vow of, 779.
 - Broughton hall,** seat of Sir Thomas Broughton, 924.
 - Browne, Isaac Hawkins,** memoir of, 1177.
 - **Bucknall,** 951.
 - Burslem,** 954; population, trade, market, church and meeting, ib.
 - Burston,** village, 938.
 - Burton upon Trent,** a description of, 753; great antiquity of, ib.; abbey of, 255; alabaster works, formerly famous for, 757; **Thomas, Earl of Lancaster,** defeated at, ib.; civil wars, several times taken and retaken, 758; streets of, ib.; grammar school of, ib.; church of, remarkable bridge of, 759; court of requests in, 760; sencers court in, ib.; inhabitants of, exempted from serving on county juries, ib.; celebrated ale of, ib.
 - Bushbury,** village, 866; manor of, ib.; church, ib.; tumulus near, 867.
 - Butterton,** hamlet, 1056; **Hamps and Mansfield,** their subterraneous transit, ib.; **Darwin's** poetical description, 1057.
 - Byana,** residence of the Bosviles, 923.
- C.
- Caldwell, Dr. Richard,** 1171.
 - Calwich,** parish of Ellaston, 1015.
 - Canals of Staffordshire,** 734.
 - Cannock,** 869; a forest of the Mercians, ib.
 - Canwell,** hamlet, its priory, 827.
 - Carewell parish,** 991; population, ib.; castle, ib.; church and monument, 992.
 - Castle church,** an ancient building, 903.
 - Castle Hay park,** 1131.
 - Cattishill,** a Roman barrow at, 1173.
 - Charles II.** his hiding-places, 1153.
 - Chartley,** residence of Mary Queen of Scots, 944; remains of the castle, 945.
 - Cheadle,** 962; surrounded by barren hills, 963; church, 967; trade, ib.; market, ib.; population, ib.; free school, 968; meeting houses, ib.
 - Chebsey,** parish and village, 921.
 - Checkley hamlet,** 962.
 - Chedleton,** 1173.
 - Chesterton under Line,** 931.
 - Chetwynd, Sir Wm.** his barbarous assassination, 909; church, 911; **Water,** his monument, 912; curious account of its consecration by Doctor Plot, ib.
 - Church Eaton,** a small village, 874.
 - **Mayfield parish,** 1006; population,

INDEX:

pulation, *ib.*; tumuli, *ib.*; Roman coins, *ib.*
 Clent, village, 849; Cnelm murdered at, *ib.*
 Clifton Campville, 821, 1106.
 Climate of Staffordshire, 730.
 Coal and cannel coal, Longdon parish produces an abundance of, 786.
 Cockaine, Sir Aston, 1167.
 Codsall, 867; church, *ib.*; monument of Walter Wrottesley, *ib.*; sulphureous well, *ib.*
 Colwich, 881; church, *ib.*
 Comberford family, 1105.
 Congreve, birth place of the celebrated Dr. Hurd, 908.
 Cooper, Mary, remarkable longevity of, 781.
 Cornubii, territories of, comprised Staffordshire, 718.
 Coton Clanford village, birth place of Wollaston, 917.
 Cotton, Charles, poet, memoir of, 1001—1005.
 County hall, 889; infirmary, *ib.*; gaol, *ib.*; free-school, 890; almshouses, *ib.*
 Coventry Act, origin of the, 1115.
 ——— and Oxford canal, 736.
 Crakemarsh, 1171.
 Creighton, hamlet, 996.
 Crompton Barbara, her monument, 895.
 Croxden, 988; abbey, 989; church, 990.
 Cuddleston hundred, 867; Breewood, Sharehill, 868; Hilton, *ib.*; Cannock, 869; Radmore, 871.
 Cumberland, Duke of, his head quarters at Lichfield, 809.
 Cannel, 1174.

D.

Danes, inroads of, 720.
 Darlaston, 813, 937; ruins of a castle near it at Bury Bank, *ib.*
 Darwin, Dr. ingenious explanation of, respecting Burton ale, 760; his residence, 810.
 Deanery house, west of the palace, 806.
 Deans house, Stafford, 896.
 Dee, Dr. Arthur, a writer on the philosopher's stone, 813.
 Denston, hamlet, 996.

Digby, Geo. tomb and inscription, 941, 942.
 Dillorn, 997; improvements and plantations by Mr. Holliday, *ib.*; church, *ib.*
 Dove, river, 733; its fertile banks, 1208; limestone, *ib.*; proverb of the farmers, *ib.*; wild or native plants, 1078.—1080; grasses, 1032; neutral plants, *ib.*—1034; Pitt's list of plants, trees, and shrubs, 1035.
 Dove dale, 732.
 Draycott parish; 994; population, *ib.*; church, *ib.*
 Drayton Bassett, village, 826; church *ib.*
 Drayton, Michael, the poet, 908, 925.
 Dudley ford, 842, 845.
 ——— John, Earl of Warwick, memoir of, 984—988.
 ——— Edmund, memoir of, 1174.
 ——— castle, 844.
 ——— extension canal, 737.
 Dukes of Lancaster, Tutbury castle principal seat of, 763.
 Dyott, Sir Richard, his monument, 808.

E.

Earl of Uxbridge, the mansion house of, 785.
 Eccleshall castle, bishop's residence, 805.
 ——— market town, 921; castle, 922; church, 923.
 Ecton hill, mines for copper and lead 1010—1015.
 Edward, the elder, brilliant victories of, 721.
 ——— the fourth, a curious instrument signed by, 807.
 Egginton, Francis, celebrated painter on glass, 840.
 Elers, two ingenious foreigners introduced into the potteries a new species of glazed ware, 1060.
 Ellford, 819; manor, *ib.*; church, 820; park farm, 821.
 Elizabeth, Queen, 823, 825, 826; poetry by, 1130.
 Ellaston, 996; population, *ib.*; vicarage, *ib.*
 Ellen hall, seat of the Noels, 920; remarkable trunk of an oak, 920, 921.

Enville

INDEX.

Brville, 833.

Erdeswicke, Sampson, celebrated antiquary, 940; singular inscription on his monument, *ib.* 941.

Etruria, seat of Josiah Wedgewood, Esq. 953.

F.

Fairwell, the small village of, 786.

Fald village, 995; birth place of Robert Burton, the poet, 996.

Farquhar, Geo. landlord of George Inn, the Boniface in his *Beaux Stratagem*, 810; Lady Biddulph the Lady Bonntiful, *ib.*; one Harrison's daughter, Cherry, *ib.*

Fasting Impostors, account of. See *Métre*, Ann.

Fenton, Elijah, his birth place, 948; patronised by Pope, *ib.*: his epitaph, 949; his writings, *ib.*; insolence of Cibber, *ib.*; Doctor Johnson's description of, 950.

Ferrers, John, and son, monuments, 825.

Ferrars, Wm. Earl of Derby, 945.

Field parish, 1052; Witch elm of a prodigious size, 1053, 1054.

Fisherwick, village, 819.

Fisherbert, Thomas, a learned and ingenious writer, 901; advocated the cause of Mary Queen of Scots, 902.

Fisherbert, Mr. his residence, 929.

Flitch of bacon, remarkable history of, 777; three couples only obtained it, 779.

Fuller, author of the *Worthies of England*, 943.

G.

Gardner, Admiral Lord, memoir of, 958.

Garrick, David, 816, 817, 819; his bust, 798.

Gaunt, John of, 764.

Gell, Sir John, 913, 914.

Gilbert, Samuel, physician, 938.

Gnoshall, 874; church, 875.

Goodwin, John a learned divine, memoir of, 1077—1084.

Grand Trunk canal, 734.

Great Barr, 832; seat of the Scot's *ib.*; chapel, 833.

Gresley's, Sir Nigel, canal, 757, 934.

Grey friars, house of, Stafford, 897.

Grindon, 1172.

Grove, Lucy, her monument, 798.

Guy, Mr. the bookseller, 826.

H.

Hacket, Bishop, remarkable anecdotes of, 793; his tomb, 801; residence, 806.

Hagley Hall, seat of Lord Carson, 874.

Hales Hall, seat of N. Kirkman, Esq. 994.

Hamilton, James, Duke of, and Lord Mohun, their fatal duel, 939.

Hamps, river, 732.

Hamstal Ridware, Pipe Ridware, and Mavesin Ridware, the three small villages of, 781—783.

Hanbury park, 1131.

Handley, 953.

Handsworth, 838; Hamstead house, *ib.*; Soho, *ib.*

Hamse. See Hamps.

Harrison, Major General, under Cromwell, 1076—1077.

Harrowby, Lord, his mansion, 939.

Howard, Craven, 820.

Healy or Heyley castle, remains, 931.

Henderson, Dr. his account of Ann Moore of Tutbury, 1133.

Henry, Earl of Huntingdon, 878.

Henry earl of Northumberland, the *Mecenas* of the mathematicians, 952.

Heylyn's Park, 1131.

Heywood, Dean, his tomb, 801; 802.

Hilton, Lord of, his peculiar service, 869.

— site of an abbey of Cistercian monks, 953.

Hints, village, 827; tumulus, *ib.*; church, *ib.*

Hobby horse dance, singular custom of, 876, 877.

Holliday, John, Esq. his improvement of barren hills, 963, 997, 998.

Hopton Heath, severe action fought at, 913.

Horton parish, 1057; population, *ib.*

Howard, Francis, 818.

Hulme, Dr. 1168.

Hurd, Dr. the celebrated bishop of Worcester, 903—907.

James

INDEX.

I. & J.

James II. visit of, to Tutbury castle castle, 769.
 — Dr. memoir of, 1193.
 Jennings, Sir Stephen, Esq. 861.
 Ilam, parish, 986; romantic situation, ib.; subterraneous rivers, ib.; wild flowers, ib.; petrefactions, ib. 779; tomb, well, and ash, of St. Bartram, Congreve wrote his first play in a grotto near this place, 980.
 Inge, Wm Esq. a celebrated justice, 809, 822.
 Ingestre Hall, 910; seat of Talbot John Chetwynd, 911; church, ib.
 Ipstones, 1021.
 John, King, singularly unfortunate, 989.
 Johnson, Dr. Samuel, memoir of, 798, 816; his account of Fenton the poet, 950.
 Junction canal, Severn and Trent, 736.

K.

Keel Hall, 1168.
 Kingsley parish, 997; population, ib.; rectory, ib.
 King's Bromley, 781.
 Kinver, 851.

L.

Ladford Pool, 757.
 Lakes and Springs of Staffordshire, 737.
 Lane end, 953.
 Lane, Colonel, John his tomb, 860.
 Langton, Bishop, 799; his figure, 801; rebuilt a palace, 805.
 Lapley, 872; priory, ib.
 Leek, 1039; trade and manufactures, ib.—1040; market, ib.; church, ib.; meeting houses, 1041; alms houses, ib.; population, ib.; sun sets twice at, 1042; manor, 1043; incursions of the Romans, ib.; gave birth to the founder of the earldom of Macclesfield, 1044; Delacres abbey, 1049; now an abbey of French nuns, 1051; Roches, 1021.

Leigh parish, 996; population, ib.; rectory, ib.
 Leveson, Catherine Lady, the charitable, 937.
 LICHFIELD, neighbourhood of a favourite chase of, the Mercian kings, 720; Dyotts of, attached to the house of Stuart, 723; cathedral of, when founded, 726; constituted an independent archbishopric in 786, 727; supposed origin of, 786; representatives, when first sent to Parliament by, 787; municipal government of, 788; different courts held in, 789; situation of, 790; houses of, ib.; sail cloth manufacture of, ib.; divisions of, 791; sieges of, ib.; cathedral church of, 792; cathedral, Rev. Dr. Addenbrooke's memorial of, 797; monuments, ib.; choir, 798; St. Mary's chapel, ib.; library, 802; St. Peter's chapel, 802; sacristy, 803; members of, ib.; prebend, 823; division of the city into parishes, 807; market house, 808; market days, ib.; guildhall, ib.; gaol, ib.; theatre, ib.; English school, ib. friary, ib.; free grammar school, 810; hospital of St. John, ib.
 Little Aston, splendid mansion, 828.
 Little Wirley, hamlet, 831; manor house, ib.
 Littleton, Bishop, 851.
 Longdon, village of, 785.
 Longnor, 1169.
 Loughborough, Lord, 818.

M.

Machiavel, Fitcherbet's treatises against, 903.
 Madeley parish church, 1154.
 Manyfold vale, 1016; Thor's house cavern, 1017; lows or barrows, ib.; Roman antiquities, 1019.
 Marcus Antonius, the celebrated archbishop of Spalatro, 858.
 Marmion, Robert, celebrated chieftain, 824.
 Mary Queen of Scots, defence of, 1129.
 — Countess of Aylesford, 879.
 — daughter to Harvey Bagot, Esq. 879.
 Masters, his *Iter Boreale*, 870.

Mercia,

INDEX.

Mercia, Staffordshire a portion of, the kingdom of, 720.
 Mercia, Wulfhere King of, persecutes the Christians, 726.
 Methodism, its influence, 1071.
 Mill-dale, 1005.
 Milley, Dr. his hospital, 811.
 Manifold, the river, 732.
 Minors, Thos. Esq. founder of an English school, 808.
 Minstrels, King of, whom elected by, 765.
 Monarchs, Mercian, two where deposited, 802.
 Montagu, Lady Mary Wortley, her monument, 797.
 Moore, Ann, the fasting impostor of Tutbury, 1132.
 Morse, Richard, 1170.
 Moseley Dole, 836.
 Moseley, the, hiding place of Charles II. 1153.
 ----- Sir Oswald, 1122.
 Muccleston, village, 926.

N.

Narrowdale, 1016.
 Needwood forest, extent of, 773, 1132; proprietorship of, 774; divisions of, ib.; officers of, ib.; court of, ib.; aspect of, ib.; soil of, 775; Yoxal, a village to the south extremity of, 776; Wichnor, or Whichnoure, a village to the S. E. of, ib.
 NEWCASTLE UNDER LINE, borough and market town, 932; origin of the name, ib.; first charter, ib.; members of Parliament, ib.; almshouses, 934; manufactures, ib.; market, ib.; device for the cure of shrews, ib.; race course, ib.; population, 935; neighbouring gentleman's seats, ib.; coal trade, ib.; its early history, 1071—1074; Dissenters, ib.; Gallows field, ib.; instance of great strength, 1075; birth place of Major-General Thomas Harrison, and John Goodwin, 1075, 1076.
 Newport, Thomas, his epitaph, 944.
 Newton, Andrew, Esq. his alms house, 806.
 ----- Thomas, bishop of Bristol, 815.

Norbury, Rev. J. G. and wife, their monument, 802.
 Northampton, Earl of, 913, 914, 915.
 Norton under Cannock, village, 831; manor, ib.; church, ib.

O.

Offa, his charter, 822, 828.
 Okeover parish, 981; its tumuli, ib. 982; estate of, ib.; mansion house and valuable pictures, ib.—983; hamlet, ib.; church and epitaphs, ib. 984.
 Oneacre, village of, 1016.
 Organ, at St. Mary's church Stafford, 892.
 Osrid, King of Northumberland, 927.
 Over Arley, village, 850.
 Overholm, 1171.
 Overstonall, hamlet, fortification, 828.
 Oxbangs, what, 1126.

P.

Paget, James, Esq. 1819.
 ----- Lord, his monument, 799.
 Palace of the bishop, its scite, 805.
 Parker, Thomas, founder of the earldom of Macclesfield, some account of, 1044—1049.
 Pattingham, parish and village of, 855; church, ib.; gold torques found at, ib.
 Pattishul, parish, 856;
 -----, Hugh de, his prelacy, 804.
 Paynesley, 1170.
 Penkridge, 871; Pennocrucium of the Romans, ib.; church, 872; trade in iron work, ib.; population, ib.; charity school, ib.; fair, ib.
 Peshall manor, 923.
 Pitt, Mr. his valuable hints on improving barren wastes, 963—967, 1019.
 Plants, rare, as given by Mr. Gough, 1036, 1037.
 Plot, Dr. History of Staffordshire, 825, 827—829, 836, 848, 856, 859, 864, 865, 874, 876, 882, 952.
 Pole, Reginald, archbishop of Canterbury, 852.
 Pope, Alex. 817.
 Potteries, substance of the account from Dr. Aikin's description, 1057—1069
 Potteries,

INDEX.

Potteries, district, 934. See Wedgewood, Josh.

Powder plot, 1149, 1150.

Prestwood, built by Sir John Littleton, 818.

— hamlet, 996.

Processioning, custom of, 862.

Pulesdome; Sir Roger de, his exploits, 805.

Pye, Thos. a celebrated author, 843.

Pyrehill hundred, 873.

R.

Radmore, its abbey, 871.

Rces, Ralph, 1173.

Retainers, their fanaticism, 930.

Richardson, 818.

Rivers of Staffordshire, 730.

Robins, Benjamin, an eminent mathematician, 1095.

Rochester parish, 994; population, ib.; church, 995; cotton manufactory, ib.

Roches, Leek, 1169. See Leek.

Rolleston Park, 1119, 1131.

Ronton, village and parish, 920.

Rowley Regis, 849.

Rudgeley, 873; its manufactures, ib.; market, ib.; fair, ib.; government, ib.; population, ib.; church, ib.; handsome seat near, 874.

Rufus, Sir Wm. 837.

Rushall village, 834; church, 835; lime and iron stone, ib.; account of the former possessors of this estate, 1098, 1102.

Rushton Spencer, and Rushton James, 1051; St. Helen's Well, ib.; superstition of the people, ib. 1052; chapel ib.; population, ib.

S.

Sandon, village, 939.

Salisbury, Earl of, and his three sons, 924, 925.

Salt springs, 738.

Savage, Mr. 817.

Scioppus, a celebrated German, 942.

Solding women, a curious iron cage for, 782.

Scotch and Picts, invasion of, 719.

Scots, Mary Queen of, confined in Tutbury castle, 767; cruel treat-

ment of, ib.; Dr. Robertson's account of, 768. See Mary.

Scroop, Bishop, his tomb, 801.

Seasdon village, Abbots or Apewood castle, near, 856.

Seisdon Hundred, King's Swinford, 816; Ashwood heath, 848; Rowley Regis, 849; Clent, ib.; Over Arley, 850; Kinver, 851; Stourton castle, 852; Kewville, 853; Patrington, 855; Sedgely, ib.; Seasdon, 856; Pattishul, ib.

Sedgely, a place of considerable trade in iron work, 855; curious species of coal, 856.

Severn, the river, 730.

Seward, Miss, her residence, 806.

Shareshill village, 868; encampment near, ib.

Shaw, Rev. Stebbing, memoir of, 1196.

Sheldon, Gilbert, archbishop of Canterbury, memoir of, 1006—1008.

Shelton, village, birth place of Elijah Fenton, 948.

Shenstone, 854.

Shenston village, 828; church, ib.

Sherrold Park, 1131.

Shugborough vale, 1084; Haywood, ib.; horse bridge, prospect from, 1085, 1086; seat of Lord Anson, 1087.

Small, Dr. W. his urn, 840.

Smallridge, George, 814.

Smith, Bishop, re-erected the hospital chapel, 811.

—, Sir W. 820.

Sneyd, John Esq. 1022, 1024, 1031, 1167.

—, William, Esq. 1167.

Soho, manufactory, 838; house of, 840.

Soar, the river, 736.

Springs and lakes of Staffordshire, 737.

Stafford, Ralph Lord, 898, 899; Robert baron de, 900; Earl Gower, Marquis of, 900; John, a friar, ib.; Edmund, chancellor, 901.

STAFFORD, county town, 881; name and origin dubious, ib.; castle, 882; church, 883; its first charter, 886; Queen Elizabeth established assizes, and sessions here, 887; situation of, ib.; borough, ib.; government, ib.; public buildings, 889, 890; parks, 891, churches, ib.—897; chapels,

INDEX.

- chapels, monastic institutions, 897 ; manufactures, 898 ; custom of borough English, ib. ; distinguished characters, 900—907.
- STAFFORDSHIRE**, ecclesiastical division of, 717 ; churches and chapels of, ib. ; original inhabitants of, whether the Iceni Ordovices is disputed, ib. ; a decisive battle fought in, 722 ; Charles II. concealed in, 724 ; Scotch rebels posted in at Leek, ib. ; ecclesiastical history of, ib. ; Parliament supported by, 723 ; inhabitants of, Pagans, 725 ; aspect of, 727 ; Pitt's survey of, 728 ; soil of, 729 ; climate of, 730 ; rivers of, ib.—734 ; canals of, ib.—737 ; lakes and springs of, ib.—738 ; minerals of, ib.—741 ; agriculture and products of, ib.—746 ; timber plantations, and woodlands of, ib.—747 ; waste and unimproved lands of, ib. ; roads, bridges, &c. of, ib. ; manufactures and commerce of, ib.—148 ; peculiar customs of, ib.—749 ; market towns and parishes of, ib.—753.
- Stamford**, Earl of, 853.
- Stanley**, Captain, his statue, 800.
- Sir John, 890.
- Sir John Thomas, 1110.
- Sir Humphrey, 909, 1111.
- Stanley**, 1172.
- Stanton**, township 1006 ; population, ib. ; birth place of Gilbert Sheldon, archbishop of Canterbury, ib.
- Stockley park**, 1131.
- Stow**, market town, 946 ; population, ib. ; religious foundations, ib. ; church, 947 ; free and charity school, 948 ; almshouse, ib.
- Stonefield**, station of the Duke of Cumberland in 1745, 1070 ; singular dislike of the people to a military life, ib. 1071.
- Stoke**, 953.
- Stour**, river, 736.
- Stourton castle**, 852.
- Stow parish**, 943.
- Stretch**, Mr. Samuel, 1154.
- Stretton village**, 875 ; manor house of Mr. Monckton, formerly belonged to the family of Congreve, ib.
- St. Catharine**, her shrine, 811.
- St. Chad**, his shrine, 799.
- St. Chad's church**, Stafford, 896.
- St. Chad**, parish of, 811 ; his well, ib.
- St. Mary**, parish of, 807.
- St. Michael**, parish of, 812 ; remarkable cemetery, ib.
- St. Modwen**, the celebrated, some account of, 754 ; curious epitaph of, ib.
- Sutton Coldfield**, waste, 834.
- Swinerton village**, a royal residence, 929 ; manor, 929 ; mansion house, ib. ; school house, 930 ; church, ib.
- Swilcar**, remarkable oak tree, the name of, 775.
- T.
- Tame**, the river, 733.
- Tamworth**, its situation, 822 ; royal residence, ib. ; history, 823 ; municipal government, ib. ; castle, market, ib. 824 ; church, ib. ; hospital, 826 ; grammar school, ib. ; manufactures, ib. ; population, ib. ; meeting houses, ib.
- Tatenhill**, parish and village of, 760, 863 ; former lords of the chief manor 761 ; parish church of, ib. ; hamlets of, ib. ; origin of the name, 864 ; severe battle fought near, ib. ; college at, ib.
- Tean**, river, 738.
- The Blue hills**, 1035.
- Theophania**, daughter of Thos. Kenningsby, her monument, 802.
- Three Shire Stones**, 1174.
- Thorpe Cloud hill**, 732.
- Throwley**, 1172.
- Thorpe Constantine**, village, 831 ; church, ib.
- Tixal Hall**, seat of Thomas Clifford, Esq. 907 ; heath, 909.
- Tollet**, Mr. agriculturist, 931.
- Totmanslow**, hundred of, 935.
- village, 1173.
- Toulmin**, Dr. Geo. Hoggart, an elegant writer, 1023.
- Townshend**, Marquis, 824.
- Trentham**, 935 ; Marquis of Stafford's seat, ib. 936 ; ancient nunnery, ib.
- Trees**, large trunks dug up at various times and places, 1054, 1055 ; Dr. Plot's opinion respecting, ib.
- Trent**, the river, 730.

INDEX

TORSNEY, Mary Queen of Scots, residence of, 743; free borough of, without a right of sending members to Parliament, 762; market of, ib.; wool stapling, the business of, ib.; cotton manufactory of, 763; free school of, ib.; famous castle of, ib.; priory of, 770; phenomenon at, 774; parish and village of Hanbury adjoining to, 772; bull-running, origin of, 766; castle, 1125, 1129; lordship of, 1128.

U.

Uno, the fasting girl of, 4141.
Upper and lower Tean, hamlets in the parish of Checkley, 990; the well in the wall, ib.
URROXETER town, 955; bridge, ib.; market, 956; iron forges, ib.; healthiness, ib.; (Etocetum of Antoninus, Camden's conjecture proved to be a mistake in, 957, consequently must be erased, and the Saxon Uttok-cestre substituted, 957;) Hollingbury Hall in this parish, ib.; lordship, ib.; market, 958; population, ib.; church, ib.; chapels, ib.; free schools, ib.

V.

Vernon, Sir John and Lady, their monument, 821.

W.

Walker, Mr. his account of Rushall, 1102; his account of Wednesbury, 1105.
Wall and Chesterfield villages, Roman station, 829; temple, ib.; castle, ib.; wall, 830.
Walmsley Hugh, Esq. his monument, 797.
WALSALL, town and borough of, 835; manufactures, 836; population, ib.; market, ib.; manor, 837; church, ib.; Dissenting chapels, 838; grammar school, ib.
Walter, Earl of Essex, 878.
 — first Viscount Hereford, 943.
VOL. XIII.

Warwick, Earl of, 887.
Wasmaling, an ancient custom, 804.
Weaver, the river, 733.
Wedgewood, Josiah, Esq. 553.
 — Josiah, celebrated potter, an account of his improvements and experiments, 1062—1064; evidence before the house of Commons, 1066, 1067, 1068; memoir of, ib. 1069.
WEDNESBURY, market town, 821, 1195; manufactures, 842; church, ib.; market day, ib.; population, 843.
Wednesfield village, 843; battle at, between Edward the elder and the Daves, 844.
Weeford, village and parish of, 827; barrow, ib.; church, 828; Little Aston, ib.
Weston village, 1025; Thor's cave, where the Druids are supposed to have offered human sacrifices, poetically described by Dr. Darwin, 1026.
West Bromwich, 840; Sandwell park, ib.; birth place of Walter Parsons, 841.
Whiston, 814.
White Ladies, 1154.
Whitgrave Thos. Esq. his tomb, 867; professor of Charles II. ib.
Whittington, 819.
Whichnour, church of, 780.
Wilkes, Dr. historian, 844.
Willoughby, Sir Henry, 828.
Willowbridge, 928; its water spring, ib.
Wingfield, Lord Cromwell, buried at Ilam church, 1037; his epitaph by Cotton, ib. 1038.
Wintring, Dr. his observations on food and wages, 999.
Wittenhall, Edward, bishop of Cork, 909.
Wirley and Essington canal, 736.
Wolsey, Cardinal, 827.
Wollaston, Wm. a distinguished writer, memoir of, 918.
Wotton-under-Weever-hill, township, 1010; Moorland districts, curious distich upon, ib.
Wotton, a Roman via vicinalis, 923.
WOLVERHAMPTON town, 857; monastery, ib.; origin of the name, K k k k ib.;

INDEX.

ib. ; trade, 858 ; population, 859 ;
canals passing near, ib. ; collegiate
church, ib. ; St. John's, 861 ;
chapels, ib. ; population of the
parish, ib. ; free school, ib. ; two
charity schools, ib. ; hospital, ib. ;
workhouse, ib. ; curious customs
of, ib.

Wright, Richard, his museum, 806.
Wrottesley, village, 864 ; its anti-
quities, ib. ; enormous stones, 865 ;
peculiar fruit, ib.
Wulfruna, the pious relict of Ald-
helm, Duke of Northampton,
857.

CORRECTIONS.

page	line	
731	8	for Northampton, read Wolverhampton.
732	22	for Ham, read Ilam.
759	12	for feet, read yards.
797		delete lines 1 & 2.
8021	5	for <i>Haigh</i> , read <i>Hays</i> .

INDEX

to

THE COUNTY OF SOMERSET.

A.

Abbey for Black Canons, founded by William de Mohun, some account of it, 473.

Abbey of Black canons at Keynsham, 633.

— church of Bath, description of, 374, 375—378.

— of St. Peter in Bath, 433, 434.

— **Glastonbury**, said to be first instituted by St. Joseph of Arimathea, 494, 499; period when it was built, and description of, *ib.*; church plate bestowed by the king of the West Saxons, *ib.*

Æthelingay or Athelney, the retreat of Alfred, during the outrageous proceedings of the Danes, 342.

Alfred the Great, is compelled to preserve himself from the ravages of the Danes, by disguises and concealment, 341; curious anecdote concerning him, 341, 342; account of his place of retreat, 342.

Allen, Ralph, Esq. description of his mansion at Prior Park, 438; the scene of the early years of Tom Jones laid here, some account of Mr. Allen's descent and education, 439, 440; is visited by Pope, 440, 441; account of the animosities between them, *ib.*

Aller parish, some account of, 596; battle of, 597; church, 599.

Altars, Roman, found at the village of Bathford, 437.

Amory, Dr. clergyman at the old meeting house at Taunton, 544, 545.

— **Mr. Thomas**, account of him, 549, 550.

Anecdote concerning Alfred the Great, 341, 342.

Anecdotes of Richard Nash, Esq. 412, 413.

Anecdote concerning Rensford, 631.

Arthur, King, discovery of his tomb, 503, 504.

Astley, Mr. short account of him, 432.

Ashton court, mansion, 636.

— **Phillips**, ruins of the mansion, 636.

Athelney, Isle of, in the parish of Eastling, 594; what famous for, 594, 595.

— **abbey**, some account of, 595, 596.

Avon Lower, river, some account of, 354.

Azxardos, situation, &c. of the town, 614; church, 615.

Az, river, account of, 354.

B.

Bacon, Roger, short memoir of him, 517, 518.

K k k k z

Baptists

INDEX.

- Baptists' chapel at Taunton, 545.
 Barrow Court, some account of the mansion of, 626; ancient Roman intrenchment here, ib.
 Bath, 358; to what it owes its origin and importance, ib.; to whom the discovery of the efficacy of the medicinal spring of, was anciently ascribed, ib.; what the opinion of antiquaries concerning the origin of the city of, 360; form of, 360, 361; public edifices, 362, 363; specimens of the remains of Roman grandeur in, 363, 364, 365; description of the coins found in, 366; account of a curious statue which was dug up in 1727, 366; the Saxons laid siege to the city of in 493, and were defeated by Arthur, 366, 367; ancient history of, 366, —368; the old city of, was plundered and burnt during the insurrection of Odo, Bishop of Bayeux and others, 369; by whom restored, ib.; at what period the city of, first sent members to Parliament, 371; the present state of, delineated, 373; division of the city of, ib.; its situation, ib.; the abbey church of, described, 374—383; description of St. James's, 384; of St. Michael's, 384, 385; St. Swithin's, 386; Queen Square Chapel, ib.; Margaret chapel, ib.; All Saints' chapel, 386, 387; Kensington chapel, 387; Christ's church, ib.; Dissenting chapels in, 388, 389; cursory view of the architecture of, 389; description of the crescent, 390; public buildings, 391; description of the interior of the pump room, 391; of the exterior, 392; description of the baths in, 393, 394; of the efficacy of the waters, 395, 396; charitable institutions, 397—406; grammar school, 406; charity school proposed by Robert Nelson, Esq. 407; Sunday schools, 408; Society for the encouragement of agriculture, &c. 408, 409; Philosophical society, 409; public library, ib.; rules to be observed on visiting the rooms, 416, 417, 421; public amusements in the new assembly room, 416—422; in the lower assembly rooms, 423; description of the theatre, 427, 428.
 Bath waters, analysis of, 395; what diseases they are most adapted for, 395, 396.
 Batheaston parish, ancient history, 438. — villa, some account of a singular custom, which formerly obtained at this house, 435.
 Bathford, situation and description of the town, 436.
 Battleborough, 612.
 Belge, the, their origin, 339; are said to have inhabited Somersetshire at an early period, ib.; some account of their progress in, ib.; Divitiacus brings an army of their countrymen over to them from the continent, ib.
 Bellott, Thomas, some account of, 403.
 Bellott's Hospital in Bath, short account of, 403; its regulations, 404, 405.
 Berkeley, Maurice, his seat at Bruton, 473.
 Bicknoller parish, why so called, 583.
 Birds, remarkable, near Exmoor, 555.
 Bishops Huish parish, 514.
 Black alms charity, 402, 406.
 Black canons, priory of, at Taunton, 542.
 Bladud, King, is said to have discovered the efficacy of the medicinal springs of Bath, 558; his descent and early life, according to tradition, 558—560.
 Boteaux, William de, curious will of, 520, 521.
 Bow ditch, an ancient Roman encampment, 627.
 Brendon Hill, 552.
 Brent Knoll, antiquities of, 611.
 Briorwater, 599; origin, and aspect of the country, ib. 600; extent and population, ib.; conjecture concerning, ib. 601; history of, 601, 602; castle, 602, 603; manor, ib.; hospital, 603; church, 604; free-school, town-hall, and court of record, 605.

Bristol,

INDEX.

BRISTOL, 637; one of the most important cities of the empire, *ib.*; by whom founded, 638; history of, 639—660; its situation at the close of the eleventh century, 642; a place of considerable trade in Henry III's reign, 645; first Parliament held there, 646; regulations and improvements, which took place in 1490, 651, 652; when and by whom constituted a city, 652; assaulted by Prince Rupert, 653; besieged by General Fairfax, 655; account of the introduction of Quakerism into, 656; Cromwell's letter to the corporation, 657, 658; Rye house plot, 658, 659; charter granted by Queen Anne in 1702, 660; situation 660, 661; city boundaries, 661; population, 663; trade and commerce, 663; cathedral at College Green, 664; Bishop's palace, 669; St. Mary Redcliff, 670; Temple church, 674; St. Stephen's, 675; All Saints', *ib.* 676; St. Mark's, 677; St. Peter's and St. Paul's, 678; Presbyterian chapel, &c. 679—681; charitable institutions, 681—685; public buildings, 686, 687; public statues, 688; quay and harbour, 689; commercial enterprise of the merchants of, 690; political influence, 693; public amusements, 694.

Broadfield Down Hill, soil of, 352.

Brue, river, account of, 354.

Bussex hamlet, 610.

Burton, some account of the town of, and its situation, 473; ancient cross erected by John Ely, 474; hospital, *ib.*

Burwalls, a Roman encampment at Long Ashton, 635.

C.

Cabot, Sebastian, memoir of, 709.
Cadbury, North, parish, some account of, 476.

— South, its situation and neighbourhood, 477.

Cangi, a posthumous tribe of the Belgæ, short account of, 340.

Cannington parish, 587; ancient appellation of, *ib.*; description of the

town, 587; priory of, *ib.*; church, 588.

Castle Cary described, 475, 476.

CASTLES, Farley, 457; Taunton, 538; Wiveliscombe, 554; Dunster, 569; Trendle, 583; Turk's, *ib.*; Douxborough, 583, 584; Enmore, 589; Walton, 623; Cadbury, 626; Milford, 631.

Casualty Hospital, of Bath, account of its origin, 405.

Cathedral at Wells, short account of, 485, 486; description of the tower of, *ib.*

Chancellor, Mathew, his method of enticing inhabitants into the town of Glastonbury, 506, 507.

Chapel Cleeve hamlet, 576.

CHARD, 529; situation and description of the town of, *ib.*

Charity school, in Bath, proposed by Robert Nelson, Esq. 407; some account of this institution, and its regulations, 407, 408.

Charleton, Doctor, some account of him, 469.

Chatterton, Thomas, memoir of, 697—701.

Cheddar, description of the scenery of, 615.

Chew Magna, why so called, 627; ancient Roman encampment in, *ib.*

Churches described—Abbey church at Bath, 374—378; St. James's, St. Michael's, St. Swithin's, 384—386; Batheaston, 434, 435; Claverton, 443; Frome, 461; Bruton, 473, 474; Cadbury, 479, 480; Queen Camel, 480; Wincaunton, 481; St. Cuthbert's, at Wells, 488; St. John the Baptist's, and St. Benedict's, at Glastonbury, 496; Yeolvilton, 521; Yeovil, 523; Milborne port, 525; Crewkerne, 526, 527; Hinton, 528; Combe, St. Nicholas, 532; Ilminster, 552, 553; St. Mary Magdalen and St. James's at Taunton, 542—545; Wellington, 552; Milverton, 554; Wiveliscombe, 555; Dulverton, 556; Cutcombe, 558; Porlock, 561; Calbone, 563; Minehead 564; Wotton Courtney, 567; Dunster, 568; Old Cleeve, 576; St. Decumans, 579; Stogumber, 582;

K k k k 3

Strington,

INDEX.

Strington, 584; Cannington, 588; Enmore, 590; Halswell, 593, 594; Easing, 596; Aller, 599; Weston Zoyland, 611; East Brent, 614, 615; South Brent, 613; Axbridge, 615; Cheddar, 616; Wrington, 617; Clevedon, 622; Walton, 623, 624; Portisbury, 625; Portishead, *ib.*; Easton in Gordano, 625, 626; Tickenham, 626; Chew, 627; Stanton Drew, 628; Stanton Prior, 630; Pensford, 631; Keynsham, 633; Long Ashton, 636, 637; Bristol Cathedral, 664—666; St. Mary Redcliff, 670; Temple, 674; St. Stephen's, 675; All Saint's, 675, 676; St. Mark's, 677; St. Paul's, 678; St. Peter's, *ib.*
 Claverton parish, situation of, 444; to whom it formerly belonged, 444, 445.
 Clevedon village, account of, 632; mansion house, *ib.*
 Clifton village, some account of, 695, 696.
 Camelet Hill, near Cadbury, curious account of by Leland, 477, 478.
 College of Wells, 484, description, and history of, *ib.*
 Colston, Mr. some account of, *ib.*, 676.
 Combe, St. Nicholas, parish of, 532.
 Combe, Sydenham, mansion of the Sydenham family, 583.
 Combwick, village of, 588; celebrated as the residence of Rosecrusian chemist, *ib.*
 Cottle, Mr. 710.
 Cowles Castle, 537.
 Crescent of Bath, description of, 390.
 CREWKERNE, 526; some account of the town and parish of, *ib.*
 Crokerne Pill, hamlet of, 625.
 Crypt, or vault under Farley Chapel described, and what it exhibits, 461.
 Cudworth, Dr. memoir of him, 597, 598.
 Culbone parish, situation, 563.
 Cutcombe, parish 537; derivation of the name, *ib.*; charity-school, 558.

D.

Danes, account of their ravages in the provinces of Britain in the reign of Alfred, 341.
 Daniel, Samuel, memoir of, 546.
 De Coucy's, ruins of the ancient mansion, 585.
 Dishcove hamlet, account of, 475.
 Dissenting chapels at Bath, 388, 389; at Bristol, 680—683.
 Divitiacus, King of the Suecessones, brings an army of the Belgæ to Somersetshire from the Continent, 339.
 Douxborough Castle, a large Roman intrenchment, 583: its form, and what it contains, 584.
 Downside, where the nonconformists opened a place of worship about the time of the Revolution, 472.
 Draper, Sir William, short account of him, 696, 697.
 DULVERTON, 555; account of the town of, 555, 556.
 Dunstan, Archbishop, task which he imposed on King Edgar, 368.
 DUNSTAR, 567; derivation of the appellation, 568; extent and population, *ib.*; church, 568, 569; castle, 569.

E.

East Brent parish, account of, 611; conjecture respecting the name, *ib.*; village of, 612; church, *ib.*
 East Chinnock, account of the village of, 597, 598.
 Eastling parish, some account of, 594.
 Easton, in Gordano, 625; church, 625, 626.
 Egremont, Earl, his mansion near the village of Williton, 578; curious circumstance concerning the chapel annexed to, 578.
 Enmore parish, situation, &c. 589; church, 590; castle, 589.
 Evans, Dr. Caleb, short account of him, 719, 720
 EVERY, SIR SIMON, short account of him, 531.
 Exford parish, account of, 556, 557.
 Exmore Forest, some account, 537;
 said

INDEX.

said to have been formerly dedicated to the religious rites of the Druids, *ib.*

F.

Fairfield village and mansion, 586.
Farley, or Farleigh village, 457; whence it derived its name, *ib.*; description of the castle, 457; chapel, 459; account of the curious monuments and tombs in it, 456, 460; description of the crypt, or vault under it, 461.
Fielding, Henry, memoir of, 510; his birth and literary productions, 510, 511; marries Miss Craddock, 510; his death, 511.
Fitz Joceline Reginald, Bishop of Bath and Wells, the original founder of St. John's Hospital at Bath, 400.
FRESHFIELD, parish, 455; some account of the manor of, *ib.*
FROME, some account of the situation, 462; its original name, *ib.*; the remains of the old priory, 463; charitable institution, 465; church, 464.

G.

General Hospital of Bath, its origin, 397; regulations for the admission of patients into the, 398, 399.
Gibbs, Dr. his experiments on the Bath water, 395.
GLASTONBURY, 494; where situated, *ib.*; its origin, *ib.*; by whom the abbey was first instituted, *ib.*; history of, *ib.*; of what it consists, 495; description of the George Inn, *ib.*; churches, 496, 497; cross, 497; monastery constructed by Ina, King of the West Saxons, 499; account of the monks of, 500; monuments, 501, pyramids, 507.
Goathurst parish, derivation of the name, 590; poorhouse, 594.
Grab-barrows, a name given to the place where the Danes were defeated at Wacht, 577.
Grammar-school, public, of Bath, 406.

Graves, Mr. some account of his life, and early attainments, 445, 446.
Grocyne, William, brief memoir of him, 696.
Grove, Henry, memoir of, 547, 549.

H.

Hale, John, short memoir respecting him, 430, 431.
Hampton Down, 437, antiquities of, 438.
Harmonic society at Bath, 489.
Harrington, Sir John, his manor-house at Keverton, 449; short memoir of his life and literary productions, 450.
Hasilborough, 587.
Halswell, mansion-house at, 590; scenery and prospect of, 590, 593; church, 593, 594.
Hill Lane in Frome, short account of the remains of the old priory there, 463.
Hinton Charter House, the seat of Samuel J. Day, 456; description of, *ib.*; account of the pictures in, *ib.*
Hinton Priory, some account of, 457.
Hinton, St. George, some account of the parish of, 528.
Hippealey, Mr. John, his proposals for the erection of a new theatre at Bath, 487.
Holy Thorn, tradition concerning, 506.
Hun, the name of the first Earl of Somerset, 343.
Hungerford's family, their pickled remains exhibited in the crypt, or vault under Farley chapel, 461.
Hypocaust, Roman, found at the village of Bathford, 437.

I. & J.

ILCHESTER, 515; its importance and antiquity, *ib.*; history of, 516; description, 517.
ILMINSTER, 532; situation and description of the town of, *ib.*; of the free-school, 534.
Jefferies, Judge, account of his bar-
K k k 4 barity

INDEX.

- barity after the battle of Sedgemoor, 348, 349.
- Jna, King of the West Saxons founded the college at Wells, 484; constructed a monastery at Glastonbury, 499.
- Inge, Hugh, Bishop of Meath, &c. 469.
- K.
- KELWESTON parish, how situated, 449; the scenery described, *ib.*; manor-house, 445, 449.
- Kensington chapel in Bath, 587.
- Keyford manor, some account of, 465.
- Keynsham parish, history, 631, 632; whence it derived its name, *ib.*; its ancient abbey, 633.
- King's bath described, 393.
- Kingswood Forest, 685.
- Kingswood school, by whom founded, 685.
- Kirk, account of his barbarous proceedings after the battle of Sedgemoor, 350, 351.
- LAURENCE, *see* LAYNE.
- LAYNE chapel in Bath, some account of, 388.
- Lansdown Hill, battle of, 343, 373, 442.
- Lansdowne Hill, some account of the situation and herbage of, 444.
- LANGFORD, 513; some account of the town of, 513, 514; hospital, 514.
- Leversedge family and estates in Frome, 463, 464.
- Lichen Marinus, or Sea-bread, 355.
- Liney hamlet, 610.
- LITERARY and SCIENTIFIC institutions, at Bristol, 684.
- Locke, Mr. John, Memoir of him, 617; of his literary compositions, 619; suspected of high treason, *ib.*; restored to favour, 620; death, 621.
- Long Ashton parish, 634, 635; description of the village, &c. 635.
- M.
- Margaret chapel in Bath, 386.
- Market Cross of Shepton Mallet, 465.
- Mendip Hills, soil of, 352; remarks on the richness of their mines, &c. 492; rocks and caverns of, 493; abound with lead, 493; curious mode of punishing delinquents at, *ib.*
- Merchants' Hall at Bristol, 687.
- MILBORNE PORT, 524; history and description of, 524, 525; manufactures, 525.
- Milsom Street in Bath, some remarks on the architecture of, 390.
- MILVERTON, 553; situation and description of, 554.
- MINE-HEAD, 563; its divisions, *ib.* aspect of the country, 564; church, 564, 565; almshouse, 565; curiosities of, 566, cross, 567.
- Minerals in Somersetshire, 753.
- Minerva Temple at Bath, description of the pediment of the, 363.
- Mohun, Sir William, obtains a considerable share of the honors and estates of the county of Somersetshire as a reward for his services in the enterprise of William, 343.
- Mohun, Sir William, his descent, 569.
- Monastery at Glastonbury, by whom constructed, 499, 500; description of the abbot's kitchen, 503.
- Monastery at Old Cleve, 575.
- Moanmouth, Duke, account of his rebellion, 345; his proclamation, 346; is presented with a pair of colours by twenty-six young ladies, 346; account of his battle with the Duke of Somerset at Sedgemoor, 347; he is taken prisoner and executed, 348; the corporation of Bath, shut the gates of the city against him, 372.
- Monks of Glastonbury, account of them, 500.
- Montague, Sir Henry, 374.
- Montfort, Hugh de, 458.
- Monuments—in the abbey church of Bath, 379; of Bishop Montague, *ib.* of Beau Nash, 380; of Colonel Ambrose Norton, 381; of Lady Miller, *ib.*; of Thomas Lichfield, and Margaret, his wife, 382; to the memory of Lady Jane Waller,

INDEX.

Waller, 382; Colonel Alexander Champion, 383; Lady Caldwell; Dr. Camplin, Mrs. Frazer Henrietta Charlotte Byron; Sir William Draper and Joseph Gwent, *ib.*; Colonel Walch, *ib.*; Sir Bevil Grenvill's, near Landsdown Hill, 442; account of one in Farley Chapel, of Thomas and Johanna Hungerford, 459; of Edward Hungerford, 460, of Mrs. Mary Shaa, *ib.*; Edward and Lady Margaret Hungerford, 461; of Simon Brown at Shepton Mallet, 471, 472; Abbot Gilbert and Captain Berkeley in the Abbey of Black Canons, 473; of Lady Magdalene Hastings, 476; of Ina, in the cathedral at Wells, 486; of King Arthur, 503, 504; tor, or tower of St. Michael, 504; of Henry Fielding, 512; John Lane and Joan Eveleigh at Chard church, 531; of Nicholas and Elizabeth Wadham, at Ilminster, 533; of the Wadham family, 534; Richard Huish, and Robert Gray, at Taunton, 543; Sir John Popham, 552; Milverton, 554; of Nathaniel Arandel, 562; Mohun and Luttrell families at Dunster, 569; Sir John and Lady Windham, at St. Decuman's, 579; Wyndham family, 580; Sir George Sydenham and his two wives at Stogumber, 582; John St. Albin at Strington, 584; of John Vernai at Stokecourcy, 586; Rev. Sir John Tynte, 594; Prowse family, and Mary Hixes at Axbridge, 615; Henry Waterland at Wrington, 617; at Fairy Field in the parish of Nemnet, 627; Sir John de Loe and his lady, and Sir John Haatvil at Chew, 628; curious, at Stanton Drew, 628; of Henry and Thomas Bridges at Keynsham, 635; of Anna Leman, 634; Mrs. Draper, Mrs. Mason, Mr. William Powell, Dr. Nathaniel Forster and the Newton family in Bristol cathedral, 666, 667, 668; of Sir William Peuri, &c. in St. Mary Redcliffe, Bristol, 672; Edward Colston, All Saints at Bristol, 627.

More, Miss, a native of Bristol, 710.
Machelney parish, account of it, 514.

N.

Nailor, James, his manner of entering Bristol, 656; he is accused and punished for blasphemy, 657.

Nash, Richard, first suggested the plan of instituting the general hospital at Bath, 397; the founder of the amusement of Bath, 410, 411; some account of his birth and parentage, 411; enters the army, but is soon disgusted with it, 412; enters himself a student of the Middle Temple, *ib.*; curious anecdote concerning him, *ib.*; is appointed to the office of the master of the ceremonies at Bath, 413; how he conducts himself in his new situation, 414; his death, 415; character, 415, 416; on the rules and regulations drawn up by him, 416.

Nelson, Robert, proposed a subscription at Bath for a charity school, 407.

Nemnet parish, 626; account of an ancient sepulchre there, 627.

Newman Street, near Shepton Mallet, 472.

O.

Octagon chapel in Bath, short account of, 588.

Octagon Chapel at Taunton, 545.

Old Cleeve, some account of the parish, 575; history of, 575—576; monastery, 575.

Orchard hamlet, why so called, 578.

P.

Palace of the Bishop of Wells, 487.

Palmer, Mr. his exertions relative to building a new theatre at Bath in 1804, 428.

Paintings on Glass in the church at East Brent, 612—613.

Parfitt, Owen, curious circumstance concerning him, 468, 469.

Parret river, account of, 555.

Paul's

INDEX.

Paul's meeting at Taunton, 544.
Penny Pound, where General Fairfax drew up his army after the battle of Langport, &c. 610.
PENSFORD, situation, &c. of the town, 631.
 Pictures in Hinton Charter house, mansion of Henry VIII. and Edward VI, Mary Queen of Scots, Lord Keeper Guildford, Lord Strafford and his secretary, Archbishop Robinson and Charles James Fox, 456.
 — of the Resurrection in Farley chapel, 461; of the Hungerford family in the vault under Farley chapel; *ib.*; of Sir John and Lady Wyndham at St. Decuman's, 579.
 Pope, Alexander, his conduct towards Mr. Allen treated on, 440, 441.
 Popham, Sir John, some account of him, 553.
PORLOCK, or **PORTLOCK**, 539; its situation, scenery, &c. *ib.*; history 560, 561.
 Portbury parish, a place of note in the time of the Romans, 624; cell of Augustine monks, *ib.*
 Portishead, some account of the parish, 625.
 Portraits of Sir John and Lady Wyndham at St. Decuman's, 579; of Sir Robert Chedder, at Chedder church, 616.
 Poulton-hill, 552.
 Presbyterian chapel at Bristol, 679.
 Prior Park, the seat of Ralph Allen, Esq. 438.
 Prynne, William, brief memoir of him, 570, 571.
 Public buildings at Bristol, 686.
 Puerperal, or Child-bed charity in Bath, some account of, 406.
 Pultenry, Right Hon. William, laid the first stone of the General Hospital in Bath, 398.
 Pump room of Bath, description of, 391, 392.
 Pyramids in the abbey church-yard at Glastonbury, 507.

Q.

Quakers' chapel at Taunton, 545.
 Quakers, account of their first introduction at Bristol, 656.

Quantock-hill, 352.
 Queen Camel parish, some account of, 480.
 Queen-Square Chapel in Bath, 386.
 Queen's Bath described, 394.
 Queensbury, Duchess, anecdote concerning, 413.

R.

Rana-hill, some account of, 527.
 Rauzzini, Signior Venanzio, his musical talents contributed much to the amusements of Bath, 425; some account of him, *ib.*; he is engaged as a singer at the Opera at Vienna, 425; becomes the conductor of the public concerts at Bath, 426; his talents as a scientific musician, *ib.*; his private character, *ib.*; his death, 427.
 Robinson, Mr. Walter, put an end to the abuses practised by the corporation of Bath relative to the grammar-school, 406.
 Robinson, Mrs. Mary, memoir of her, 702—706.
 Roman coins found at Bathford, 437; at South Cadbury, 478; at Wincanton, 481; at Taunton, 537; at Wiveliscombe, 554, 555; in Stogumber, 583; at Bridgewater, 600; at Brent-knoll, 611; Stanton Prior, 630.
 Roundway-down, battle of, 372.
 Rowe, Elizabeth, short account of her life and literary attainments, 519, 520.

S.

Sacellum, account of the pediment of one in Bath, 365.
 Salisbury-hill, description of, 436.
 Samwales, Richard, short account of him, 534.
 Sandford, John, short account of him, 581.
 Sarcophagus, account of one in the abbey-church of Bath, 382.
 Scudamore, Lady Elizabeth, her donation to Bellot's hospital in Bath, 404.
 Selwood Forest, remains of, 463.
 Sharpsham Park, account of, 508.
 SHIFFTON MALLET, extent and manufacture

INDEX.

manufacture of, 467; ancient history, 467, 468.

Shockerwich hamlet, 437.

Skims, Mr. his seat at Warley. See Warley.

SOMERSETSHIRE, by whom it is said to have been first inhabited, 339; the district of in early times inhabited by the Belgæ, ib.; formed part of the province of Britannia Prima during the dominion of the Romans in, 340; college built at Wells in, by King Ina, 341; abbey built by King Kenulph at Glastonbury in, 341; on the incursions of the Danes in, ib.; conjectures concerning the derivation of the name of, 342; its situation at the time of the Norman Conquest, 343; on the dissension and calamities in during the civil wars in the reign of Charles I. 343; the principal theatre of the Duke of Monmouth's rebellion, ib.; its situation and boundaries, 351; description of its sea-coast, ib.; account of the hills in the county of, 352; mountains, ib.; climate 352, 353; fertility of the country of, 353, 355; ancient forests, rivers, 354; Ecclesiastical division of, 356; hundreds, ib.; liberties, 357; church history of, 357, 358; political economy of, 358; state of the parliamentary representation, ib.

SOMERTON, 512; situation and description of, ib.; account of the church, 513.

South Brent, short account of, 613.

Southey, Mr. 710.

Spring, account of a famous one near Tor-hill, 506.

Stanton Drew parish, 628; ancient monument, 629; conjectures respecting its origin, ib.

Stanton Prior, derivation of the name &c. 630; relic of antiquity in, ib.

Stavertale Priory, short account of, 475.

STOONMUR town, its situation and extent, 582.

STOCKMUR town, short account of it, 584; priory belonging to the parish of, 585.

Strington parish, 583; cross in the church-yard, 584.

St. Catherine's Hospital at Bath, some account of, 402.

St. Decuman's parish, why so called, 377; manor of, ib.

St. John's Gate at Bristol, 687

St. Joseph's Chapel at Glastonbury described, 502.

Sunday Schools established at Bath by Henry Southby, 408.

Sydney-Garden, Vauxhall, at Bath, some account of, 429.

St. Vincent's rocks, description of, 695.

T.

TANNON, 535; its ancient name, ib.; history, 535, 536; Dr. Thomas Amory's poetical description of, 534, 535; a place of great antiquity, 537; Roman coins, &c. found there, ib.; Castle, description of, 538; descriptions and arms, 539; exchequer-room, ib.; assize-room, ib.; market-house, 540; free grammar-school, ib.; almshouses, 540, 541; hospital, ib.; bridewell, 541, 542; religious institutions, 542—545; monuments, 543.

Tickenham parish of, 626; account of the mansion, ib.

Tor-hill, 506.

Trendle Castle, remains of, 583.

Trevor, Sir John, his decree concerning the premises belonging to St. John's Hospital at Bath, 401.

Turks' Castle, some account of, 383.

Twynho, Ankerette, accused of poisoning Isabel, wife of George Duke of Clarence, 466.

V.

Vallis-house, the seat of the Leveredges, 464.

Vallis Florida, 576.

Vicar's college of, at Wells, 487.

Villula, John de, restores the city of Bath after being plundered and burnt during the insurrection of Odo, Bishop of Bayeux, 369.

W.

Wacht borough and sea-port town, 577; harbour, 578.

Walton in Gordana, description of the

INDEX.

- the scenery, &c. 623; ruins, ib.; manor, 624.
 ——— Castle described, 623,
 Wandsdike, some account of its origin, and the course which it takes, 330.
 Warburton, Bishop, to whom he was indebted for his preferment to that title, 441, 442.
 Warley, the seat of Mr. Skrine, a Roman pillar of curious workmanship found there, 437.
 Weary-all-hill, description of, 507; tradition respecting Joseph's staff, 505, 506.
 WELLINGTON, 551; description and history of, 551, 552; trade, 552.
 WELLS, 482; situation of the city of, 482, 483; monastery founded there, ib.; to what it owes its existence, 482, 483; ancient appellations of, ib.; market-place, 483, 484; conduit erected by Bishop Becket, 484; college, ib.; cathedral, 485, 486; chapter house, ib.; college of Vicars, 487; history of 488—491.
 Wesley's meeting-house at Taunton, 514; to what its origin may be traced, ib.
 Weston Zoyland, some account of, 610.
 Widcombe parish, where situated, 438
 Williton manor, 577.
 Williton village, short account of, 578.
 WINCAUNTON, description of the town of, 480; extent and population of, ib.; a place of great antiquity, 481.
 WIVELISCOMBE, 554; its antiquity, ib.; trade, 555.
 ——— Castle, some account of, 554.
 Wokey-hole, some account of, 492.
 Wood, Mr. built at St. John's Hospital at Bath, 400.
 ——— John, Esq. his talents as an architect, 438.
 Woodlands, West, 464.
 Worgan, James Dawes, brief memoir of him, 706, 707.
 WAINTON, 617; some account of the town, &c. ib.
 Wulfric, the hermit, account of, 527.
 Wyndham family, brief account of, 580, 581.
 ———, Sir William, memoir of, 581, 582.
 Wycuf Keyn, or Keyn the Virgin, account of, 632.
- Y.
- Yearsley, Mrs. Ann, short account of her, 706.
 YEOVIL, whence it derived its name, 529, 523; customs of the inhabitants, 522; description of the town, 523; church, ib.
 Yeovilton parish, description of, 520; manor, 520, 521; church, 521.
 York-House Catch Club at Bath, 429.

INDEX

TO

THE COUNTY OF SALOP.

A.

Abbey of St. Peter, and St. Paul, origin and history of, 85; the recluse of Roger de Montgomery, 85; present state of, 89, 90.
Abbey Foregate, suburb of, 93.
Abbies, Shrewsbury, 85—90; Haughmond abbey, 179; Buildwas, 193; Wenlock, 196.
Aberton, town of, 16.
Acton, Robert de, anecdote of, 100.
 ——— Burnel castle, 324.
Adams, Sir Thomas, account of, 293.
Agrippina, some account of, 7, 8.
Aidan, Bishop, 266.
Alan, the father of Walter, account of, 203.
Aldotheley, Henry de, 227.
Allatt's Charity School, 140.
Alm's Houses, St. Chad's, 121.
All Stretton, 325.
Alphelm, Prince, murdered by Godwin Porthund, 50.
Anecdote of William Thorpe, a reformer, 94; of Edward Burton of Longnor, 97; of Robert de Acton, 100; of Robert Cadman, 105; of Mr. Day, 122; of Judge Jefferies, 132; of Dr. Thomas, 134; of Dr. John Taylor, 134—138; of Admiral Benbow, 167; of the Stewart family, 202; *et seq.* of Samuel Wilcocks, 212, of Samuel Cookson, 214; of Sir Robert Synclere,

227; of Lord Herbert of Chisbury, 259; of old Parr, 264; of Mellet Peverell, 272; of Thomas Elkes, 276; of Kynaston, The Wild, 278, 279; of Sir Rowland Hill, 290; of Sir Thomas Adams, 293; of Wycherley the poet, 296; of Tom Brown, 301; of Dr. Beddoes, 304; of Charles II. 307; of Mr. Fletcher of Madeley, 314; of St. Kenelm, 330; of Baxter, 332.
Antiquity, utility of the study of, 109.
Arms of Spain fall down from the Shrewsbury Town Hall, after the destruction of the Armada, 142.
Arthur, Prince of Wales, 242.
Ashton, Mr. Thomas, 127.
 ——— Park, 269.
Atkys, Richard, 159.

B

Badlesmere, Lord, 227.
Bayley, Mr. George, some account of, 140.
Baistow hill described, 29.
Baker, John, 159.
Baptism, dispute betwixt Mr. Porter, and Mr. Haggard, concerning, 112.
Baptist meeting-house at Shrewsbury, 119.
Barnard, Nicholas, account of, 284.
Basford, village of, 256.
Battle of Shrewsbury, relative to the revolt

INDEX.

- revolt of the Percies of Northumberland, against Henry the Fourth, 59, et seq.
- Battlefield church, its origin, 64; account of the place, 182.
- Baxter, Richard, memoir of, 331.
— William, memoir of, 336.
- Beddoes, Dr. Thomas, memoir of, 304.
- Bell Stone House, 163.
- Bells, former supposed charm by the ringing of, 107.
- Belmeys, Richard de, 106.
- Benbow, Admiral, memoir of, 73, 167; his battle with M. de Casse, 170.
- Benedictines, vows of the, 86.
— priory of, at Bromfield, 255.
- Benion, Dr. Samuel, 113.
- Benson, Mr. Joseph, is dismissed in disgrace from Treveka college, 318.
- Bicknel, Mr. 123.
- Bilingsley, a coal district, some account of, 33.
- Birches, The, account of a great earthquake at, 208.
- BISHOP'S CASTLE, 227; Parliamentary representation, 258.
- Blounts, family of the, 235.
- Bogue and Bennet's History of Dissenters, characterized, 113.
- Boscobel House, 307.
- Bouchier, Dr. 88.
- Bourncote, etymology of the name, 237.
- Bowdler's Charity School, 140.
- Bradford North, on the soil and surface of the hundred, 33.
- Breidden Hill, 3; annual convivial meeting on, 288, 289. (note.)
- Brereton, Owen Salisbury, Esq. 227.
- BRIDGENORTH, 222; said by travellers to resemble the Old Jerusalem, ib.; churches, ib.; meeting-houses, 224; origin of the town, ib.; hospitals, ib.; history, 225; siege of, 226; castle, 227, 228; was taken by the Parliamentary forces, ib.
- Bridges of Shrewsbury, 81—83.
- Brigantes, disorders among the, 5.
- British Museum, restrictions respecting the use of books in the, 143.
- Brocard's castle, 325.
- Bromfield, village of, 254
- Brouke, Lord, 127.
- Broseley, famous for the manufactories of tobacco-pipes, &c. 47.
- Brown Clee Hill description of, 30; compared with Titterton Clee Hill, ib.
- Brown, Tom, memoir of, 301.
- Browne, Isaac Hawkins, Esq. 223.
- Bryant, Rev. John, 110.
- Buckingham, Duke, is betrayed by his servant, and executed at Shrewsbury, 67.
- Buildwas, account of, 192.
- Buonaparte, Lucien, 254.
- Burcott, sepulchral remains, found at, 235.
- Burtons, the, of Longnor, anecdote of, 97.
- Bury Ditches, a Roman encampment, 256.
- Bury Walls, Hawkstone, 289.
- Butler, wrote part of his Hudibras, in Ludlow castle, 249.

C.

- Cadman, Robert, some account of, 105.
- Caer Caradoc Hill, description of, 3, 29, 30, 252, 257, 325.
- Canaludonum or Colchester on the colony of veterans, planted at, 5.
- Camp, Roman, called *The Walls*, 231.
- Canal, description of one constructed by Mr. William Reynold, 42, 43; account of the Shrewsbury canal, 44; of one constructed by the Marquis of Stafford, 45.
- Cangi, the territories of the, ravaged by the army of Ostorius, 4.
- Caractacus, short account of, 2, 3, account of his battle with Ostorius Scapula, 3, 4, 5; he is defeated, and himself and family taken prisoners, 6, 7; his speech before the Emperor, 7.
- Case, Rev. Mr. 118.
- Rev. Thomas, 118, 119.
- Castle Foregate, Isthmus of, 44.
- of Shrewsbury, 77; present state, 78; area of the court, ib.; account of the mount near, 78.
- Castle of Bridgenorth, 227, 228.
- of Ludlow, 239; history of during the reign of Hen. VIII. and Eliz. 243; masque of Comus at, 243;

INDEX.

- 245; original lines in, 218; decay of, 249.
 Cause Castle, 261.
 Cave, Kynaston's, 278.
 Chapels of Shrewsbury, 109.
 Charitable foundations at Shrewsbury, 120.
 Charleton, John de, some account of, 104, 153.
 Charles the first, comes to Shrewsbury from Nottingham at the head of his army, 69; sets up a mint at Shrewsbury.
 Charles II. account of his flight from Worcester, 307.
 Chesterton, village of, 231.
 Chirbury hundred, on the soil and surface of, 75.
 Chirbury, village of, 258; Lord Herbert of, some account of, 259.
 CUNYCH STREETON, 325; church, ib.;
 Churches—the abbey, 90; St. Giles, 92; Old St. Chad, 93; New St. Chad, 98; St. Mary's, 100; of St. Alkmund, 105; St. Julian's, 108; Battlefield, 182; Wroxeter, 191; Wenlock, 202; St. Leonard's at Bridgenorth, 222; St. Mary Magdalen's, at the same place, ib.; Cleobury Mortimer, 233; Ludlow, 252; Ellesmere, 283; Whitechurch, ib.; Wem, 293; Drayton, 299; Newport, 300; Wellington, 303; Shiffnal, 304; Tonge, 305; Church Stretton, 325; Hales Owen, 326; St. Kenelm's chapel, 329.
 Churchyard, Thomas, the poet, 128, 149; memoir of, 165.
 Clee Hills, the, 232.
 CLEOBURY MORTIMER, 232; church, 234; Free School, 235.
 Clive, Lady Dowager, seat of, 254.
 Cloth-worker's company, 153.
 Cludde, William, Esq. his seat, 303.
 Clun river, 3.
 ——— castle, 256.
 ———, town of, 257.
 Clwyddian Hills, 9.
 Coal strata, band of, 21; district of Colebrook dale, 23; foundation, ib.; defects of, 24; fields in Tetterton Clee Hill, 30—32; found in vicinity of the river Severn, 42.
 Coins, Roman, dug up at Wroxeter, 188.
 Colebrook Dale, some account of the rocks near, 22; the centre of the greatest iron works in England, 313; iron bridge, 321.
 Coleham, or Colemn cotton manufactory of, 47.
 Companies. See Halls.
 Comus, masque of, 245.
 Convents, former, in Shrewsbury, 108.
 Cookson, Samuel, anecdote of, 214.
 Corbet family, 323.
 Conavii, the, 2.
 Cornbrook coal field in Tetterton Clee Hill, 30; lists of the strata in, ib.;
 Council House of Shrewsbury, 156; account of the visits of the Lords Presidents of Wales to, 158.
 County Bridewell, 147.
 Court of conscience at Shrewsbury, 148.
 Crops, cultivated in Shropshire, 35.
 Crosiers of the monks, 87.
 Cross, Shrewsbury, 150.
 Crow, Lieutenant-governor, trial of, 72.
 Cundore, Gilbert de, 106.
 Cundover, hundred, soil of, 34, 35.

D.

- Davies, Rev. Mr. 113, 325.
 Dawes, Maister John, of Shrobsbery, 148.
 Day, Mr. anecdotes of, 122.
 De Case, M. his engagement with Admiral Benbow, 170; his letter to Benbow, 174.
 Depot, for arms at Shrewsbury, 164.
 Dissenting Meeting-houses in Shrewsbury, 110.
 Doddridge, Rev. Dr. 115.
 Douglas, Earl, joins in a conspiracy with Hotspur, against Henry the fourth, 60; his exploits in the battle of Shrewsbury, 63; is seized by the enemy, 64; released without ransom, 65.
 Dovaston, John F. M. Esq. 250, 269; his lines on Whittington castle, 274.
 Dovaston common, 279.
 Dramatic exhibitions at Mr. Ashton's seminary, 128.
 Draper's Company, Hall, 152.
 DRAYTON, church, 299; manufacture of paper at, 300.

Dye-

INDEX.

Dye-earth near Colebrook Dale, described, 23; some of the Dudley fossils said to be contained in the bed of, 25.

Dyke, made by King Offa to prevent the Welsh from making inroads into his territories, 9.

E.

Earthquake at the Birches, 208.

East Brimstry hundred, account of the soil of, 34.

East, or English Bridge, 83; cast of the new one, *ib.*; extent of, 84.

Ecclesiastical antiquities of Shrewsbury, 84.

Education, Mr. Day's notions respecting, 123.

Edward's, Rev. William, monumental inscription on, 234.

Egerton, the Lady Alice, 245.

Elkes, Thomas, anecdote of, 276.

Ellesmere navigation, description of, 44, 45.

ELLSMERE, 280; history, 280, 282; present state, 283; church, *ib.*

Encampment, Roman, Bury ditches, 256, 257; Parslow *ib.*; Basford gate, 257; at Hawkstone, 289.

Epitaph on Edward Burton, Esq. 98; on Robert Cadman, 103.

Erdington, parish of, 229.

Ethelfleda, the foundress of Bridgenorth, 224.

F.

Fairs, in Shrewsbury, 151.

Farmer, Rev. Hugh, memoir of, 175.

Ferwyn mountains description of the limestone near, 21.

Fittes, chapel of, 100.

Fitz-Allan Edward, put to death at Shrewsbury, 57.

Fitz-Guarine, Fulke, 273.

Fitzjohn, Pagan, 106.

Flaald. See Alan.

Fleet Prison, irregularities of the, 145.

Fletcher, Rev. John Wm. his account of an earthquake at The Birches, 208—221; memoir of, 313.

Flint, Mr. John, 324.

Ford hundred, on the soil of, 35.

Fownes, Rev. Joseph, 116.

Fox's Knob at Hawkstone Park, 287.

Frankwell Fort, some account of its origin, 70, 120.

Free Schools at Shrewsbury, 126.

Freestone, ridges of red and white near Grinshill hill, and Ellesmere, 20.

Fulke. See Fitz Guarine.

G.

Gaol, Shrewsbury, 144; dress of the prisoners, 146; regulations, 147.

Gatacres, manor of the, 230.

Gates, ancient, of Shrewsbury, 81.

Giant's Well, Red Castle, 290.

Gibbon, Mr. character of, 138.

Gifford, George, 308.

Glen in Hawkstone Park, 289.

Glendower, Owen, assaults Shrewsbury, and is vanquished; 10; his attempt to recover the independence of the Welsh, 58; his descent *ib.*; his exploits against Lord de Ruthes, *ib.*; lays claim to the throne of Wales, *ib.*; defeats the tenants of the Earl of March, 59; anecdote concerning him during the battle of Shrewsbury in 1403, 65, 66; his supposed observatory, 66.

Goalford's Tower, Ludlow, 254.

Gothic, on the use and abuse of the term, 233.

Gough's MS. History of Middle, 277.

Granger's character of Lord Herbert of Chirbury, 259.

Grasses of Shropshire, 35.

Greville, Sir Fulk, 127.

Griffydd the Welsh Prince, is attacked and defeated by Harold, 9, 10; his head sent as a token of subjection to Harold, 10.

Grotto, at Hawkstone Park, 286.

Guild Hall, Shrewsbury. See Town Hall, 141.

Gulf, at Hawkstone Park, 285.

H.

Haggar, Mr. his dispute with Mr. Porter, concerning baptism, 112.

Haghamond hill, some account of the strata of sandstone in, 21; abbey, 179.

INDEX.

HATTS OWAN, abbey, 326; church, *ib.*
Halls, public, of Shrewsbury, 151.
Hardwicke, Mr. John Bell, 235.
Harold, King, conquers the Welsh, 10.
Harris, Sir Thomas, anecdote of, 73.
Harrison, Rev. Ralph, 117.
Hawkstone Park, 284.
Haycock, Mr. 142.
Hayes, a house near Oswestry, 268.
Hen Dinas, etymology of the name, 266.
Henry IV. his engagement with Hotspur, relative to the revolt of the Percies, 59; offers pardon to his conspirators, 60; receives an answer of defiance from Hotspur, 60, 61; his courage in exposing himself in the front of the battle, 63; gains the victory, 64.
Herbert, Lord, of Chirbury, some account of, 259.
Higginson's alias-houses at Whitchurch, 284.
Hill work coal-field, account of, 32.
Hill, Sir Richard, some account of, 284, 292, 293.
Hodnet, 298.
Holy Cross, 91.
Hope Bowdler, 25.
Hopton castle, 255.
Hotteby iron works, 43.
Hosier, Mr. his almshouse at Ludlow, 243.
Hospital of St. Giles, at Shrewsbury, 120; of St. John the Baptist, and St. George, *ib.*; Milington's, 121.
Hothingham, Mr. Baron, 142.
Hotspur, his battle with King Henry IV. 59; et seq. origin of their quarrel, *ib.*; his answer to an offer of pardon from the King, 61; his impetuosity in the field of battle, 63, 64; is slain, 64.
House of Industry, 122.
Howard, Mr. the philanthropist, 126.
Hubert de St. Clerc, anecdote of, 227.
Hudibras, partly written in Ludlow castle, 269.
Hunkes, Sir Fulkes, Richard Baxter's remarks on his character, 70.
Huns. Rowland, Esq. 143, 147.
Huntingdon, Lady, 318.
VOL. XIII.

I.

Iceni, the, defeated by Ostorious, 4.
Independent Meeting House, at Shrewsbury, 118.
Infirmaries, the Salop, 121.
Ireland, Mr. John, memoir of, 297.
Iron works, extensive, near Colebrook dale, 22, 23.
Iron ore, Columnar, at Ketley, 25; found in the vicinity of river Severn, 42.
Iron bridge, at Colebrook Dale, 313, 321.

J.

Jefferies, the infamous Judge, some account of, 132; his remains lately discovered, 133.
Jones's Mansion, 164.

K.

Katherine, Lady, Speed's account of, 242.
Kenelm, legend of, 330.
Kent, Roger; 159.
Ketley, iron and coal mines of, 42; on manufactures in, 47.
King's Croft, Battlefield, 183.
Kingsland, annual procession to, 77.
Kinlet, parish of, 235.
Kirkby, Colonel, shot for cowardice, 173.
Knight, Thomas, of Henley, Esq. 145.
Knockin Castle, 275; etymology of the name, *ib.* (*note.*)
Kydston, Humphrey, the Wild, account of, 277; cave, 278; his horse, *ib.*;
Kynaston's Horse Leap, 279.

L.

Ladies of Salop described, 49.
Lake, artificial, at Hawkstone, 291.
Lakes in Shropshire, 41.
Land, waste, in Shropshire, some account of, 37, 38.
Lane, Mrs. anecdote of, 311.
Langland, Robert. See Pierce Plowman, 235, 337.
Larrance, Thomas, 159.

INDEX.

Latham, Mr. account of his dispute with his parishioners, respecting a picture of the crucifixion, 92.
 Lawley Hill, range of white sandstone at, 29.
 Laws enacted by Edward the Prince of Wales, for governing the Welsh, 13.
 Leasowes, the, 376.
 Lebottewood mill, 47.
 Leighton, Rev. Francis, his account of the Roman coins, dug up at Wroxeter, 187, et seq.
 L'Estrange, family of, 275.
 Library at the free grammar school, at Shrewsbury, 150; Shrewsbury, 143.
 Lillesbull Abbey, 302.
 Lime abounding with crystals near Colebrook dale, 26.
 Limestone, range of, forming the western boundary of Shropshire, 20; band of, 21.
 Limestone hill, description of one, 25.
 Little Stretton, 325.
 Littleton, Rev. Adam, memoir of, 331.
 Lloyd, William, Esq. 271.
 London Institution, restrictions respecting the use of books in, 143.
 Longmont Hills, a singular mass of, described, 26, 27.
 Longevity, extraordinary instance of, in Parr, 262; another instance of in T. Elkes, 276.
 Longnor, chapelry of, 323.
 ----- hall, 323.
 Lords Marchers, origin of their seignories and jurisdictions, 11, 12; tenure by which they held their lands under the Conqueror, ib.
 Lucretia, one of Mr. Day's protégées, 323.
 Ludlow, ancient name of, 238; houses well built, 239; history, ib.; castle, ib.; masque of Comus, performed at, 245; original lines written in the castle, 248; decay of the castle, 249; present state of the castle, 251; Ludlow church, 252; Hosier alms-house, 253; cross, market-house, and Guildhall, ib.; grammar-school, 254; Goal-ford's tour, ib.; Parliamentary representation, 254.

Lyster, Thomas, procures himself the honour of knighthood, by a purse of gold, 69.
 Lyth Hill, described, 29.

M.

MADLEY, 313.
 Manwaring, Rev. Dr. Roger, 325.
 Malverne, John. See Pierce Plowman, 235, 337.
 Marchers, Lords, origin of their seignories and jurisdictions, 11; when they ceased to be created, 13; signification of the word, 11; council of the Marchers of North Wales, by whom re-established, 14; when the council of, was abolished, 16.
 Market House of Shrewsbury, 148.
 Masque of Comus, 245.
 Mathrafael, the retreat of the British Prince, in the time of King Offa, 8, 9.
 Mercers' company, 152.
 Middle, hamlet of, 276; castle, 277; Gough's history of, ib.
 Millington's Hospital, 121.
 Mineralogy of Shropshire, 20.
 Mitton, Colonel, some account of, 71.
 Morfe, tumuli on, near Qantford, 230.
 Montgomery, Hugh de, shot by Magnus, King of Norway, 51.
 Montgomery, Roger de, assists in the Norman conquest, and subdues Edric Sylvaticus, earl of Shrewsbury, 10; the county of Shropshire, &c. given to him as a reward of his services, ib.
 Mortimer, Hugh, 226.
 Mortimer's Tower, Ludlow Castle, 251.
 Munslow, hundred on the soil of, 34.
 Museum, at Shrewsbury free-school, 132.

N.

Navigation, origin of, in Shropshire, 42, 43.
 Neptune's whim at Hawkestone, 291.
 Nescliffe Rock, 278.
 Newbury coal field, extent and description of, 31, 32; list of the strata in, 31.

Newling,

INDEX.

Newling, Rev. Charles, 129.
Newport, Sir Richard, by what means he obtained his titles of baron of England, &c. 69, 70.
Newport church, 300; free school, ib.; contends with Shiffnal for the birth of Tom Brown, 301.
Nursery, West Felton, 269, 270
Nygel, Doctor, 106.

O.

Oak, Royal, 210, 312.
Oaken Gates, iron and coal mines of, 42.
Oakley Park, 251, 254.
Obelisk, in Hawkstone Park, 988.
Old Fort, 267.
Old Post office, Shrewsbury, 153.
Onslow, Sir Richard, funeral monument of, 96.
Onslowe, Mr. Humphrey, 149.
Orations, during a visit of the Lords Marchers of Wales, to Shrewsbury council house, 160.
Ordorices, the, 2.
Orleton, the seat of William Cludde, Esq. 303.
Orton bank, lime of, 32.
——, Rev. Job, funeral tablet of, 96; some account of him, 114.
Ostorius Scapula, on his battle with Caractacus, 3; defeats the Iceni, 4.
Oswald, son of Adelfrid the seventh King of Northumberland, 265.
Oswestry hundred, account of the soil of, 33.
Oswestry, ancient name, 265; history, 265; gates, 267; present extent of, 268; present improved state of, ib.
Otaheite, supposed scene in, at Hawkstone, 290.
Overs hundred, on the soil of, 32.
Owen, Rev. James, 113.
—— the Rev. Hugh, liberality of, 117.
—— Mr. of Cundover, 135.

P.

Pagnel, Gervas, 197.
Palmer, Rev. John, 119.
Paul's Point, at Hawkstone park, 286.

Parkes, Mr. David, his description of seals found at Wroxeter, 191.
Parliament, held at Shrewsbury in 1283, some account of, 56, 57.
Parr, Thomas, account of, 262.
Pendrill, Jane, 309.
Pengwern, the city of, built by the Britons, 49.
Peverell. See Trevor.
Pictures in the grand jury room at the Shrewsbury Town Hall, 145; at Hawkstone park, 285; at Orleton, 303, at Longnor hall, 323.
Pierce Plowman, 235, 337.
Plantations and wood in Shropshire, 35.
Plants of Shropshire, some account of, ib.
Plymley, Rev. Archdeacon, remarks on his work relative to Shropshire, 17, 321.
Porter, Rev. Mr. his dispute with the Rev. Mr. Haggar concerning baptism, 112.
Presbyterian Meeting House, at Shrewsbury, account of, 110—118.
Pimhill hundred, remarks on the soil of, 33.
Prince, Master, 162.
Priors, list of those belonging to Wenlock abbey, 198.

Q.

Quardock. See Caer Caradoc.
Quarrel, Rev. Thomas, 110
Quarries, limestone, at Lincoln-hill, 25.
Quarry, the, at Shrewsbury, 73.
Quatford, parish of, 229.

R.

Rampart, description of one, made by King Offa, to keep the Welsh out of his territories, 9.
Red Castle, Hawkstone, 290.
Reformation effected a wonderful change in the minds of men, 94.
Retreat, the, at Hawkstone Park, 287.
Reynolds, Mr. William of Ketley the first who constructed a navigable canal in Shropshire, 42, 43.
Richmond, Earl Henry, anecdote of his entrance into Shrewsbury, to claim

INDEX.

claim the crown from King Richard, 68; is aided by his uncle the Earl of Shrewsbury, and achieves the victory of Bosworth field, 68.
 Rivers in Shropshire, the Severn, 38—40; the Tern, Clun, Ony, and the Teme, 41.
 Roads, public, in Shropshire, 38.
 Robert of Shrewsbury, 88.
 Rocks near Colebrook Dale, of what composed, 22.
 Roden, river, 293.
 Roman Catholic chapel at Shrewsbury, 120.
 Romsay, Colonel, character of, 74.
 Roscoe, Mr. 233.
 Rowley, William, 164.
 Royal Oak, 310, 312.
 Rye-house plot, 74.

S.

Sabrina, one of Mr. Day's protégées, 123.
 Salopians, testimony to their open liberality, 143.
 Sandstone, near Hawkstone, description of, 21.
 Seal of the corporation of Shrewsbury, 148.
 Sepulchral remains, found at Burcott, 235.
 Sepulchral stones, in the free school at Shrewsbury, 131.
 Severn River, course of, 39, 40; statement of the distances and falls of, 40.
 Shambles at Shrewsbury, 151.
 Sharpestone hills described, 29.
 Shearman's Company, 153.
 Shelton Oak, 178.
 Shenstone, the poet, memoir of, 326.
 Shifnal church, 304.
 Shrewsbury, or Pengwern, formerly the capital of Powisland, 8; how the antiquity of the town of, may be traced, 48; when founded, 49; how it obtained its present name, ib.; situation of, ib.; ancient history of, ib. et seq. is besieged by Edward the Forrester and Owen Gwynedd, 51; stiled a city in Domesday Survey, ib.; Gwynwyn-
 wy: Prince of Powis, comes to the

English council at, to decide upon measures to be adopted against the Welsh depredations on the borders, 54; is assaulted by the earl of Pembroke and his associates, 55; the town of, falls into the hands of the rebels, 56; the court of exchequer; and King's Bench moved there, in 1277, 56, 57; Parliament held at, in 1283, for the purpose of deciding the fate of David Prince of Wales, ib.; the people of, put Edmund Fitz-Allan to death, 57; Parliament assembled there, by Richard II. 58; battle of, relative to the revolt of the Percies of Northumberland, against Henry the Fourth, 59; remarks on the battle of, 66; espouses the party of the white rose, ib.; sweating sickness in, 69; visited by King Henry the seventh, ib.; Charles the first arrives there, at the head of his army, ib.; account of the storming of the town, 71; another attempt to reduce the town, 74; last royal visit to, ib.; beauties of its situation and prospects, ib.; the quarry, 75; interior of, ib.; police and internal government, 76; public edifices, 77; the wall, 80; gates, 81; Welsh bridge, ib.; east bridge, 83; ecclesiastical antiquities of, 84; abbey of St. Peter and St. Paul, 84; Henry VIII. chuses it for a bishopric, 83; the abbey church, 90; St. Giles's 92; Old St. Chad's, 93; New St. Chad's, 98; St. Mary's, 100; St. Alkmund's, 105; St. Julian's, 108; convents, ib.; chapels, 109; Dissenting meeting-houses, 110; Roman Catholic chapel, 120; charitable foundations, ib.; schools, 126, 140; Town hall, 141; New Hall, 142; gaol, 144; corporation seal, 148; Market-house, 148; manner in which the town is supplied with water, 151; fairs, ib.; public balls ib.; Theatre, 153; Council House, 156; White-hall, 162; the Bell Stone House, 163; Jones's mansion, 164; the Depot, ib.
 Shrewsbury canal, origin of, 44; course of, ib.
 Shrewsbury, Earl Edric, Sylvaticus subdued

INDEX.

- subdued by Roger de Montgomery, 10.
- Shrewsbury, Earl Robert Bolesme, his rebellion, 54, 53; his punishment and death, 53.
- Shropshire, view of its general importance, 1; materials of its history, 2; state of, before the Roman invasion, ib.; Caractacus resisted the progress of the Roman conquerors in the hilly parts of, 3; the county of, bestowed on Roger de Montgomery, 10: the capital of, assaulted by Owen Glendower, ib.; extent, limits, and boundaries of, 17; number of churches in, 19; climate and soil, 19, 20; mineralogy, 20—25; on the soil and surface of the different hundreds in, 35; crops, 35; grasses of, 35, 36; plants, ib.; woods and plantations, 36, 37; waste land, 37; public roads, 38; rivers, 38, 41; lakes, ib.; navigation, origin of, 42; construction of the canals in, 43—45; on the commerce, 45, 46; manufactures, 47; population of, ib.; mills, ib.; portraiture of the inhabitants of the, 48.
- Sidney, Sir Henry, 127, 243.
- Silures, the, 2.
- Stafford, Marquis of, short account of a canal, constructed by, 43.
- Stephens, Jeremiah, some account of, 228.
- Stewart family, curious inquiry concerning their origin, 202, et seq.
- Stiper-stones Hills, some account of, 27; the ore of, described, 28.
- Stoke Castle, 255.
- Stone Pulpit at Shrewsbury, 89.
- Stottesdon hundred, on the soil of, 34.
- Stratford, rivulet, 231.
- Street town, See Church Stretton.
- Stretton valley, short account of, 26.
- Sturgeon, account of an extraordinary large one, 132.
- St. ALMUND, church of, 105; new church of, 107.
- St. Blaise, chapel of, at Shrewsbury, 109.
- St. Catherine's chapel at Shrewsbury, 109.
- St. Chad's old church, 93; fall of the tower in 1785, 95; new church of, 98.
- St. Giffes, church of, 92.
- St. John Baptist and St. George, hospital of, 120.
- St. Julian's church, 108.
- St. Kneelm's chapel, 829.
- St. Leonard's church, Bridgenorth, 222.
- St. Mary's Church, Shrewsbury, 100; stone porch of, 102; extent of the parish, 107.
- St. Mary Magdalene, chapel of, at Shrewsbury, 109.
- St. Mary Magdalene's church, Bridgenorth, 222.
- St. Michael's chapel, of Shrewsbury, 109.
- St. Nicholas's chapel at Shrewsbury, 109.
- St. Peter and St. Paul, abbey of, history of, 84, 85.
- Subscription charity school, of Shrewsbury, 140.
- Summer House at Hawkstone park, 285.
- Sweating sickness, some account of the dreadful havoc made by, in Shrewsbury, 69.
- Switzerland, supposed scene in, at Hawkstone park, 287.
- Sword, ancient one, found at Quatford, 230.
- Sydney, Sir Phillip, 127.
- Synclaire, Sir Robert. See Hubert de St. Clare.

T.

- Tallents, Rev. Francis, some account of, 110, 111.
- Taylor, Rev. Dr. John, account of, 134; Dr. Johnson's character of him, 138.
- Taylor, the Wates poet, his description of Old Parr, 264.
- Teme, river, 3, 202.
- Test, in which the convention of El Arish was signed, 292.
- Terrace, near Bridgenorth, 232.
- Titterton Clee Hill, some account of, 30; compared with Brown Clee Hill, ib.
- The Walls, a Roman camp, near Quatford, 231.
- Theatre, Shrewsbury, 158.

Thomas,

INDEX.

Thomas, Dr. John, some account of, 134.

Thorpe, William, obtains leave to preach against the Catholic church, 94.

Tilting match, at Peverell's castle, Derbyshire, 273.

Tomb of Roger de Montgomery, 92; of Mr John Whitfield, 93; of Sir Richard Onslow, 96; Rev. Job. Orton, 96; the Burtons of Longnor, 97; of Robert Cadman, 105.

Tonge church, 305; castle, *ib.*

Tonley Hill, 256.

Town Hall, of Shrewsbury, 141.

Tower in Hawkstone Park, 283.

Trevor, Tudor, 273.

Trollope, Sir Andrew, 241.

Tumuli, found on Morfe, near Quatford, 230.

U.

Uriconium, where, 185.

V.

Vis à vis, at Hawkstone Park, 286.

Vision, extraordinary one, of Lord Herbert's in support of infidelity, 259.

Vitalis Ordericus, some account of, 126.

W.

Wacke, a species, of basalt, 23.

Wade, Capt. shot for cowardice, 173.

Wakeley, William, 304.

Walcot Park, 256.

Wales, Prince, David of, account of his rebellion and ignominious death, 56, 57.

Wall of Shrewsbury, 80.

Walter, the son of Alan, account of, 203.

Warburton, Bp. anecdote of, 137.

Ward, Dr. his account of three curious sepulchral stones, 131.

Waring, Dr. Edward, account of, 139.

Waring, Richard Hill, Esq. some account of, 268.

Wading Street or Roman Highway situation of, 8, 325.

Wellington church, 303.

Welsh, account of the, incursions made by, on the territories of their neighbours, 9; are conquered by Harold and the head of their chief, sent as a token of subjection to him, 9, 10; their Prince Owen Glendower, assaults Shrewsbury and is vanquished, 10; laws enacted by Edward the first for the government of, 13; remarkable instances of their cruelty, 54, 55; their attempt to recover their independence under Owen Glendower, 55.

Welsh-bridge at Shrewsbury, 81; demolition of, in 1791, 82; rebuilt, *ib.*

Welsh flannels, some account of the manufacturing of, 46.

WELSH POOL, on the trade in flannels, in the market of, 46.

Wem, supposed by Horsley to be the site of the ancient Rutunium, 293; free school, *ib.*

Wenefrede the virgin, some account of, 53; circumstances which are said to owe their origin to, *ib.*; her relics said to have been obtained for the abbey of Shrewsbury, 87.

WENLOCK, Great, or Much, 195; abbey, 196; Cluniac monastery, 198; church, 202.

Wenlock, account of the soil and surface of the liberties of, 34.

Wesley, Rev. John, boasts of his intimacy with the King, 315.

Westbury, village of, 261.

West Felton, 269.

West Felton hundred, account of the soil and surface of, 33.

Weston, village of, 292.

Whitchurch, church, and old walls, 283; free school, alms houses, &c. 284.

Whelock, Abraham, account of, 284.

Whitcliffe rocks, 252.

Whitchall at Shrewsbury, 162.

White Ladies, priory, 307, 312.

Whitfield, Mr. John, tomb of, 93.

Whitgrave, Mr. 310.

Whitmore, Thomas, Esq. 223.

Whittington castle, 271; curiosities dug up at, 272; Mr. Dovaston's lines on, 274.

Wilcocks, Samuel, anecdote of, 212.

Wildmoors, 22.

Winnington,

INDEX.

Winnington, village of, 262.

Wood, Mr. Isaac, 125.

Woods and plantations in Shropshire, 36.

Worcester, Earl Thomas of, conspires with Hotspur against King Henry IV. 59; instance of his superstition, 62, 63.

Worfield, parish of, 235.

Wrekin Hill, 22, 192.

Wroxeter, account of, 185; old wall

at, 187; Roman coins, 188; ford, 191; church, 191.

Wycherley, William, memoir of, 295.

Y.

Yates, Francis, 307.

York, Richard, Duke of, the father of Edward the fourth, statue of, 81, 150.

Yscithrog Brochwel, palace of, 49.







